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• Recent press release
• Fact sheet for easy reference
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We can also provide:

• High resolution photography
• HD video footage
• Interviews with our staff, collaborators, and supporters
• Access to experts

Please don’t hesitate to contact me at any time. My team and I look forward to assisting you.

Best,

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Global “Loving Day” Celebrations Honor Interracial Families; 53 Percent of Gen Zers Say Interracial Marriage is “Good for Society”

New York, NY (Updated June 11, 2019)

This year marks the 52nd anniversary of Loving v. Virginia, the Supreme Court decision that declared all laws against interracial marriage in the United States to be unconstitutional. Nationwide, aptly-named Loving Day celebrations will commemorate the June 12th, 1967 anniversary of this civil rights landmark. This will be the 16th consecutive year of these celebrations, which collectively form the world’s largest network of multiracial community events.

Interracial relationships have received recent international press. The birth of the royal baby Archie has “special meaning” for multiracial people, according to a May 2019 Washington Post piece, as Megan Markle’s royal wedding to Prince Harry did before. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez responded positively to a video by All Elite Wrestling (AEW) executive vice president Cody Rhodes, who is in an interracial marriage with professional wrestler Brandi Rhodes. When he said “I told Brandi one time that I don’t see color, and she said ‘Well, then you don’t see my experience.’” On May 26th, Ocasio-Cortez replied that “This exchange is a promising peek into what growth looks like in our national discourse on race.”

53 percent of Gen Zers says interracial marriage is good for society, which is greater than 30 percent of Baby Boomers and 20 percent of Silents, according to a Pew Research study, and reported in May 2019 by Trust, the magazine of Pew Charitable Trusts). In contrast, “at least 15 per cent of Canadians would never have a relationship with someone outside their race” according to a May 2019 poll by Ipsos for Global News. According to a Pew Research Center study in 2017, one in six newlyweds in 2015 were married to someone of a different race. This is in contrast to 3 percent in 1967, the year that the Supreme Court ruled in Loving v. Virginia.

The hashtag #lovingday has previously trended at #3 on twitter in the U.S. thanks to diverse couples, families and individuals who shared their photos and stories. Loving Day has been officially recognized by New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio (who is in an interracial marriage); and the California State Assembly via House Resolution No. 39 (sponsored by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty). Previously, Loving Day has been recognized by the State of Virginia, the U.S. House of Representatives, the City of Los Angeles, the Anti-Defamation League, and many more.

Richard and Mildred Loving’s legacy lives on 52 years after the Loving decision. This year, over 20 Loving Day celebrations have been announced in 15 cities for 2019, including New York; New Orleans; Philadelphia; Boston; Minneapolis; Chicago, Grand Rapids, MI; Burlington, VT; Griffin, GA; Idaho Falls, ID; El Cerrito, CA; Riverhead, NY; Strasbourg, France; Utrecht; Netherlands; Vienna, Austria, and more, many of which are listed on LovingDay.org. This includes 4 countries: the U.S., France, the Netherlands, and Austria. There have been over 340 announced Loving Day Celebrations since the project started 16 years ago (2004).

In New York City, the Loving Day Flagship Celebration took place on Sunday, June 9th. Diverse families gathered for an outdoor picnic with barbecue, drinks, and activities for all ages from 3:00-7:00 PM at HI New York City Hostel, located on Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd Street in Manhattan (891 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10025). This year’s celebration featured top NYC DJ Dhundee and is generously sponsored by Asahi, HI New York City Hostel, Flavorpill, The Mash-Up Americans, and community partners Hapa Mag and Mixed Marrow.

About the Loving Day Project
Annual Loving Day celebrations commemorate the June 12th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia (1967), the Supreme Court decision that declared all laws against interracial marriage in the United States to be unconstitutional. Loving Day is celebrated in cities nationwide and internationally, collectively forming the world’s largest network of multiethnic community celebrations. Our mission is to fight racial prejudice through education and to build multiethnic community. Our vision is to create an annual tradition that will make the Loving case a universally recognized civil rights landmark.

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Quick Facts

Background:

• Loving Day is named after Loving v. Virginia (1967), the Supreme Court case that declared all laws against interracial marriage to be unconstitutional in the U.S.

• Loving Day’s mission is to fight racial prejudice through education and to build multiethnic community.

• We encourage people and organizations to celebrate Loving Day on (or around) the anniversary of the Loving v. Virginia court decision on June 12th.

Context:

• 17 million adult Americans (6.9%) of Americans are multiracial according to Pew Research (2015), which far exceeds the 2010 U.S. Census estimate of approximately 9 million.

• One-in-six new U.S. marriages is interracial or interethnic according to a 2017 Pew Research Center study. Beyond newlyweds, one-in-ten of all married people are in an interracial or interethnic marriage (about 11 million people).

Loving Day Celebrations:

• The Loving Day Flagship Celebration in New York City leads the season and inspires others around the world to host their own celebrations.

• Loving Day is celebrated nationwide in large cities like New York and Los Angeles, small cities like Tuscaloosa, AL, and internationally in cities like Amsterdam.

• Loving Day Celebrations take many forms, including film festivals, backyard barbecues, picnics, or gatherings at restaurants or bars.

• The Loving Day On Campus initiative encourages a growing number of multiethnic student organizations to celebrate Loving Day early (before the end of the academic year).

Educational Activities:

• Loving Day participates in academic conferences including the Hapa Japan Conference and the Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference.

• Loving Day collaborates with universities to host presentations, film screenings, panel discussions, and other educational events at universities including Columbia, NYU, Brown, UMD, and University of Illinois.

• Loving Day provides free educational resources on the LovingDay.org website, including an interactive legal map and courtroom history.

The Vision:

• Loving Day has been permanently recognized by the state of Virginia. It has also been recognized through city council resolutions in New York, DC, Los Angeles, and more. It has been mentioned on the floor of the House of Representatives.

• Loving Day is a global annual tradition that is shared among friends and passed down between generations.

• Loving Day is a way to discover multiethnic/multicultural identity, and to provide a shared experience.

Fun Facts:

• Many couples choose to get married on Loving Day.

• Some of the more unusual Loving Day celebrations include doing the Denver Triathlon, and a group rafting trip in Kyoto prefecture, Japan.

• When Barack Obama’s parents got married, it was illegal in 22 states.

• The Loving Day heart/shield logo has been expressed in many forms, including cakes and tattoos.

The Founder/President:

• Loving Day was founded by Ken Tanabe in 2004 as his graduate thesis project at Parsons the New School of Design in New York City.

• Ken Tanabe is of multiethnic heritage: his father is Japanese and his mother is Belgian.

• He is an art director and graphic designer working in New York City. He also teaches at Parsons School of Design.
Nearly 20 Percent of Americans Think Interracial Marriage is ‘Morally Wrong,’ Poll Finds

BY TIM MARCIN ON 3/14/18 AT 4:59 PM

NEARLY 20 PERCENT OF AMERICANS THINK INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE IS ‘MORALLY WRONG, POLL FINDS

It has been just more than 50 years since Loving v. Virginia, the landmark Supreme Court decision that banned state-level laws preventing interracial marriage.

Yet in 2018, there are a large number of Americans—nearly 20 percent—who feel there is something wrong with interracial marriage, according to a new poll this week from YouGov. The survey of U.S. adults asked about the “moral acceptability of various behaviors” regardless of the legality of the action; one of those behaviors was interracial marriage.

Seventeen percent of respondents said interracial marriage was “morally wrong” while 83 percent said it was “morally acceptable.” There was a bit of a divide along party lines on the subject, with 28 percent of Republicans and just 12 percent of Democrats replying that interracial marriage was morally wrong.

There wasn’t much of a difference among respondents by race, however, according to YouGov. Seventeen percent of white respondents felt interracial marriage was morally wrong, compared with 18 percent of black respondents and 15 percent of Hispanic respondents.

The YouGov survey polled 1,500 U.S. adults and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

A report last year from Pew Research Center found that by 2015, one in six newlyweds were married to someone of a different race compared to just 3 percent in 1967, the year of Loving v. Virginia. Twenty-nine percent of Asian newlyweds were intermarried, compared with 27 percent of Hispanic newlyweds, 18 percent of black newlyweds and 11 percent of white newlyweds.

There was, once again, a divergence in beliefs along party lines. According to Pew, about half of Democrats and independents who lean Democratic said they felt the increasing number of interracial marriages was good for society. Just 28 percent of Republicans and right-leaning independents said the same.

In February 1961, Barack Obama's parents did something that was illegal in 22 states and that 96% of the population disapproved of: they got married. In fact, interracial marriage, sex and cohabitation would remain illegal in much of the U.S. for another six years. Then on June 12, 1967, in the case *Loving v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court unanimously struck down the country's anti-miscegenation laws, allowing interracial couples across the country to marry. Thirteen years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, the court took the last legal teeth out of the Jim Crow era, ridding the U.S. of its last major piece of state-sanctioned segregation. June 12 has since become a grass-roots holiday in the U.S., especially for multiracial couples and families. Known as Loving Day, the celebration commemorates the 1967 case and fights prejudice against mixed-race couples, and is a reason to throw an awesome, inclusive party.

As the long-running state-tourism campaign claims, Virginia is for lovers, but that hasn't always been true. In 1958, Richard and Mildred Loving got married in Washington, D.C., where interracial marriage was legal. But one night when Richard, who was white, and Mildred, who was black and Native American, were sleeping in their Virginia home, three police officers burst inside, shined flashlights in their faces and told them that their Washington marriage certificate was "no good." The newlyweds were arrested and threatened with jail time. A Virginia judge looked down at the couple from his bench and told them, "Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, Malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix." He sentenced Richard and Mildred to a year in jail each, citing an 1883 Supreme Court case that said if a mixed-race couple were punished equally, there would be no discrimination.

(See pictures of the civil rights movement.)

To avoid prison, the Lovings agreed to move to Washington and not return to Virginia for 25 years. After five years, however, the couple longed to see their family and friends in Virginia. With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), they fought their way to the Supreme Court. An ACLU lawyer recalled when Richard simply stated what the legal argument should be: "Tell the court I love my wife, and
it is just unfair that I can't live with her in Virginia." On June 12, 1967, the Supreme Court agreed. Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered the opinion, writing that anti-miscegenation laws "deprive the Lovings of liberty" and that the "freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness." Virginia's anti-miscegenation laws had been on the books for 305 years.

(See a 1967 TIME story on the Loving v. Virginia ruling.)

Sadly, the happy marriage was cut short. Richard was killed in a car accident in 1975. Mildred, who never remarried, passed away in 2008. The Lovings' case may have ended the last vestiges of legal segregation, but attitudes take longer to change. As late as 1987, a full 20 years after the case, only 48% of Americans said it was acceptable for blacks and whites to date. That number has since jumped to 83%, according to the Pew Research Center. In 2010, the center estimated that 1 in 7 new marriages in the U.S. is now an interracial coupling. In 1961, the year Obama's parents married, only 1 in a 1,000 marriages included a black person and a white person; today, it's 1 in 60.

The idea for Loving Day came from one person, Ken Tanabe. In 2004, while a student at Parsons the New School for Design, Tanabe created Loving Day as part of his senior thesis. Growing up, he had never heard of the Lovings, and as a person of mixed-race heritage, he wanted that to change. He created a website to educate people about the history of mixed-race marriages and encouraged people to host their own Loving Day gatherings to create an annual tradition for the mixed-race community. In 2004, there were two large public celebrations — one in New York City and one in Seattle. Now Loving Day is the biggest multiracial celebration in the U.S., with public events in most large cities across the country. This year will be the seventh annual Loving Day celebration, and if previous years are any indication, it will be the biggest yet.

See TIME's Pictures of the Week.

See the Cartoons of the Week.

Find this article at: http://content.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1996028,00.html
Couples are celebrating 50 years since interracial marriage was legalized with #LovingDay
Couples and families are using the hashtag #LovingDay all over social media today to celebrate interracial relationships that would have been illegal in the U.S. before a landmark civil rights case 50 years ago.

SEE ALSO: The official 'Loving' trailer beautifully delivers an essential message of acceptance

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Loving v. Virginia on June 12, 1967 that interracial couple Mildred Loving and Richard Loving's marriage was not a crime. The decision went all the way to the Supreme Court, which found that the state of Virginia's anti-miscegenation laws violated the 14th amendment and were racist.

This opened up interracial marriages in more than a dozen other states and allowed the Lovings to openly be a family. A movie about their story — titled Loving and starring Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton — came out in November 2016.

Now, on the 50th anniversary of the decision, #LovingDay is trending on Twitter as a way to honor the historic decision and celebrate love.

Many are posting about their relationships with touching photos, memories, and stories of acceptance and love.
50 years ago our interracial marriage wouldn't have been legal here in Florida. Love never fails! Happy #LovingDay ❤️

2:03 PM - Jun 12, 2017

607 71 people are talking about this

Thanks to Richard and Mildred Loving, we celebrate 50 years of love today. Almost 15 years since I married my love. #LovingDay

6:22 AM - Jun 12, 2017

25 See Georgette Gilmore's other Tweets

#LovingDay

1967: SCOTUS threw out VA's anti-miscegenation law=Interracial marriage legal in US

✔️My wife & I=mixed couple✔️#lovewins 🌷🌷🌷

6:51 AM - Jun 12, 2017

121 31 people are talking about this
Angie Fenton
@angiefenton
Celebrating #LovingDay.
7:00 AM - Jun 12, 2017
29  See Angie Fenton's other Tweets

Marisa Renee Lee
@MarisaReneeLee
Happy #LovingDay 50 years ago today our marriage became legal in our home state! Elections matter because courts matter! #LovelsLove ❤️
7:45 AM - Jun 12, 2017
80  See Marisa Renee Lee's other Tweets
Love wins, again and again.

**WATCH:** Scientists are creating drones that fly in sync with each other

**TOPICS:** CIVIL RIGHTS, DISCRIMINATION, IDENTITIES, INTERRACIAL-COUPLE, LOVING-DAY, LOVING-V-VIRGINIA, SOCIAL GOOD
Most Americans have never heard of Mildred and Richard Loving. But next week, a Hollywood movie will introduce the country to a time and place — 58 years ago in Virginia — when a sheriff could burst into a couple’s bedroom and arrest them for being married.

“Loving,” which opens in theaters Nov. 4, tells the story of Mildred and Richard, young romantics who became felons when they dared to wed in 1958. She was black, he was white, and that was a crime in Virginia and 23 other states. They were arrested, convicted and banished from their home state. But their legal fight led to the 1967 landmark Supreme Court ruling in *Loving v. Virginia* that ended miscegenation laws in the 16 states where they were still on the books.
The pair returned to Virginia and, slowly, Virginia began to look more like them. Black hands joined with white hands at altars from Hampton Roads to Herndon as the state that once served as the capital of the Confederacy grew more populous, more diverse and more tolerant. By 2010, Virginia led the nation in the rate of black-white marriages, according to the Pew Research Center. And while racism hasn’t disappeared, the state’s marital melting pot now includes people from all over the world. Few heads turn at the sight of a Venezuelan-Indian couple or a Korean bride with her white groom or, since same-sex marriage became legal two years ago, lesbians of different colors exchanging vows.

Today, Virginia is for Lovings, as these portraits of five mixed-race marriages show.

— Steve Hendrix

They met online. They married on Loving Day.

A less brave man may not have pursued Aisha Bonner after reading her online dating profile, which was written to deter, not attract. Tired of wasting time on the wrong people, she was clear about whom she didn’t want.

Her 11-year-old son was her priority, she wrote. So if a man couldn’t deal with a child, he should move on.

She had a doctorate and loved reading, she wrote. So if a man couldn’t handle a smart woman, he should move on.
Her list went on, each description followed by the same siren blaring “move on, move on.” But Scott Cozad didn’t move on. He was swept in. He sent her an email that stretched for pages, and it was clear that despite their skin color—he’s white, and she’s black—the two shared much in common. Scott’s profile had its own siren of sorts. His picture showed him in a suit of armor, a nod to his love of historical reenactments. Aisha was swept in.

“If he had been born during the Renaissance, he would have definitely been a knight in shining armor,” the 42-year-old social science researcher said one evening sitting in the couple’s Woodbridge home.

“Eww,” her now 13-year-old son Brandon jokingly gagged.

Last year, Scott and Aisha said their vows in front of friends and relatives who have shown them nothing but support. But in many ways theirs is not a marriage of two. It is a union of three.

On their wedding day, Brandon asked Scott if he could now call him Dad.

“Yeah,” Scott replied.

“Honestly, if I had tried to say more, I would have fallen to pieces,” said Scott, 40, a systems engineer.

Aisha, who took her husband’s last name, said Scott and Brandon share many similarities, among them a love of hamburgers, an ease talking to strangers and a penchant for cheesy jokes (although Brandon points out that his, at least, make people laugh).

But their union has not come without challenges. Scott, who has no children from a previous marriage, said he hasn’t had to learn only how to be a father, but also how to be a father to a black son.
A simple conversation about buying toy guns in their home carries with it the weight of a national conversation about police shootings of unarmed African Americans.

“They have all these cool Nerf guns,” Scott said. “But I’m apprehensive about getting them for him and going out there.”

“It’s more than apprehensive,” Aisha said. Her son has never played with toy guns because “I’m not going to risk his life.”

“Everyone I know has Nerf guns, even younger kids,” Brandon said, not complaining as much as explaining.

Scott also recalled how out of place he felt the first time he took Brandon to a black barbershop. By their second visit, he said he felt comfortable enough to ask the barber “dumb questions.” Now, he has the shop’s number programmed into his phone.

Before Scott met Aisha, he had never heard of Richard and Mildred Loving, the Virginia couple behind the Supreme Court’s June 12, 1967, decision to legalize interracial marriage, a date celebrated nationally as Loving Day. Then the two watched a documentary that moved them both.

Not long after that, Scott was at Brandon’s soccer game when Aisha called to say she had almost been in a car accident. He decided then that he didn’t want to move on — ever. Over the phone, he asked her to marry him. He said he knew the perfect date: Loving Day.

— Theresa Vargas
Loving Day Recalls a Time When the Union of a Man And a Woman Was Banned

By Neely Tucker
Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, June 13, 2006

The word "miscegenation" is a linguistic artifact, a sort of postmodern joke, a term most often used with a sense of irony.

But at a backyard barbecue in the District on Sunday afternoon that was dedicated to the joys and intricacies of interracial love, sex and marriage, Lydia and Peter Mosher remembered when bans on interracial relationships were deadly serious. Such laws began in Maryland in 1661, multiplied across the country and did not end until a Virginia case in 1967. No one needs a reminder about the fate of black men who had sex with white women in the Jim Crow era.

Even for others, it wasn't easy: "We keep things as normalized as possible." This is Peter Mosher talking in a follow-up phone call, describing his marriage of 43 years. "But maybe we still carry some baggage from the 1950s, the 1960s. Maybe we watch our backs a little more." Peter is white; his wife is black.

Monday was, by city proclamation, Loving Day in the nation's capital, recognizing the 39th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia, the 1967 Supreme Court decision that overturned miscegenation laws in Virginia and 15 other states, all in the South. It was the end of the last piece of state-sanctioned segregation.

That decision has, in the ensuing years, changed the way the nation looks -- the percentage of interracial marriages has increased fivefold from 1970 to 2000, according the U.S. Census, from 1 percent of all marriages to more than 5 percent. The number of children living in interracial families has quadrupled in that time period, going from 900,000 to more than 3 million, and the Census Bureau predicts that such interracial unions will continue to increase.

District-born Ken Tanabe, a 28-year-old product of that interracial boom, is laboring mightily to turn June 12 into a national Loving Day -- a grass-roots observation of the court case and the nation's growing mixed-race heritage. Starting from scratch three years ago, he's built a history-filled Web site (http://www.lovingday.org/) and networked with multiracial advocacy groups to create parties and celebrations in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle and other cities. Lydia and Peter Mosher attended a small backyard barbecue in the Takoma neighborhood of Northwest Washington to mark the occasion in the city where so much of the Loving v. Virginia case took place.

"The primary focus is to fight the racism that still exists today," Tanabe, a broadcast graphics designer in New York, said in a telephone interview yesterday. He was fresh off interviews in the Gotham media circuit, hitting CBS's morning show and appearing as the subject of a question-and-answer feature in the Village Voice. (Tanabe is the son of Francis Tanabe, an editor in The Washington Post's Book World section). "We're talking about hundreds of years of history, laws from the Colonial era that extended even past segregation; Alabama didn't take their law off the books until six years ago. The idea is to build it into a type of Juneteenth celebration that people observe across the country."

That may be possible, says Jungmiwha Bullock, president of the Association of Multi-Ethnic Americans, a Los Angeles-based umbrella organization that advocates for multiracial Americans on such issues as categories on census forms and mixed-race adoptions. The organization sponsored several parties over the weekend, and will host a nationwide conference call this month to plan for a major national observation next year, on the 40th anniversary.

"I don't know that people know about and understand the impact of that court case," Bullock says. "I mean, how many of us mixed-race kids would have been born without it? That's a pretty fundamental change in society."
The Loving case started in rural Caroline County, Va., about 100 miles south of the District. Richard Loving and Mildred Jeter were young people in love. She was just 18. She was black and he was white. They traveled in 1958 to the District, where interracial marriages were legal, took their vows, came home and, at 2 a.m., were arrested in bed by deputies. They were prosecuted and sentenced to a year in jail. Caroline County Circuit Court Judge Leon Bazile suspended the sentence -- so long as the couple left the state and did not return together for a quarter-century.

"Almighty God created the races, white, black, yellow, Malay, and red and placed them on separate continents, and but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend the races to mix," Bazile ruled.

The Lovings moved in exile to the District. And then they sued.

It was not until 1967, 13 years after Brown v. Board of Education ended segregated schools, that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the law.

Richard Loving was killed in a car accident in 1975; Mildred Loving, now in her late sixties, still lives in Virginia but rarely gives interviews.

"Since the older generation is dying," she told The Post in a 1992 interview, "the younger ones . . . realize that if someone loves someone they have a right to marry."

Nearly 15 years later, a young man who is part Japanese and part Belgian says it is a point worth remembering.

"Most people don't think of the Loving decision as a civil rights case, but more as a personal preference thing," Ken Tanabe says in a phone interview. "But it goes to the most fundamental sense of who we are as human beings, and how we live our lives."

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