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Department of State to Host Google+ Hangout on Visa Processing for Same-sex Couples

Media Note

Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC

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Last week, Secretary of State John Kerry announced that the Department of State would begin processing visas for same-sex couples in the same manner that it considers applications for opposite-sex spouses. On Thursday, August 8 at 1 p.m. EDT, the Department will host a Google+ Hangout to discuss what these new guidelines mean for both immigrant and nonimmigrant visa applicants.

On hand to answer questions will be David Stewart, Consul General of the U.S. Embassy in London; Don Heflin, Managing Director of the State Department's Visa Office; and Victoria Neilson, Legal Director of Immigration Equality, which advocates on behalf of LGBT and HIV-positive individuals. Chris Johnson, chief political and White House reporter for the *Washington Blade*, will moderate the hangout.

The hangout will be broadcast live on the Department of State's **YouTube channel** and **Google+ page**. Questions can be submitted in advance via **Facebook** and Twitter using #AskState and tweeting at **@StateDept**, **@TravelGov**, or **@USAinUKCGCorner**.

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