

# LGBTQ IN KOREA

**Sang Kon 0**



Confucianism and Christianity is the dominant religion in Korea and has shaped the perspective of the LGBT in South Korea.

The two religions denies and disregards the same sex marriage.

"Korean culture, as well as other Asian cultures with strong ties to Confucianism, still views homosexual people as problematic and disruptive to family tradition," said Lim Hyun-sung, an associate professor at the College of Social Welfare at Kangnam University in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province.



“ There is actually a third word: *dongseongaeja* which literally means homosexual. This word was considered the most degrading thing. The image conjured up by the word *dongseongaeja* in South Korea is a shady old man dying from AIDS. It was such a horrible word to even mutter, even among *iban* folks.”

- From KE Interview -

“ I told my mom I liked boys when I was 15. She cried..... She couldn't understand what I was saying. To her, it meant I wanted to be a *dongseongaeja*, something unimaginable for any parent. No matter how many times I tried to explain to her, she still couldn't understand. It's a useless debate. “

- From KE Interview -

# MILITARY IN SOUTH KOREA



LGBTQ is a major issue discussed when mentioning about the mandatory military service required for all South Korean males.



# COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN ITAEWON

Global pandemic of Covid-19 was no different in Korea. The country was one of the most affected nation in the early stage aside from China in March.

The nation went onto a settled stage as new daily cases subsided down to two digit until May.

2nd Wave of Covid-19 breakout happened in a gay club in Itaewon in May of 2020.



Homophobia was at the max during the period and the civilians started to call out the gay people and started to bash on them on the web.

Many gay people in fear, the people whom went to the club during the same time period decided to hide themselves in order to prevent themselves being exposed as being gay.



Although the government promised the anonymous testing system in order to get people to be tested more, the results didn't change much.

HONG SEOK CHEON, A FAMOUS KOREAN  
ACTOR/ BUSINESSMAN, IS ONE OF THE  
MOST FAMOUS PUBLIC FIGURE IN KOREA  
TO COME OUT.



IN THE YEAR OF 2000, HONG SEOK  
CHUN CAME OUT TO THE PUBLIC.

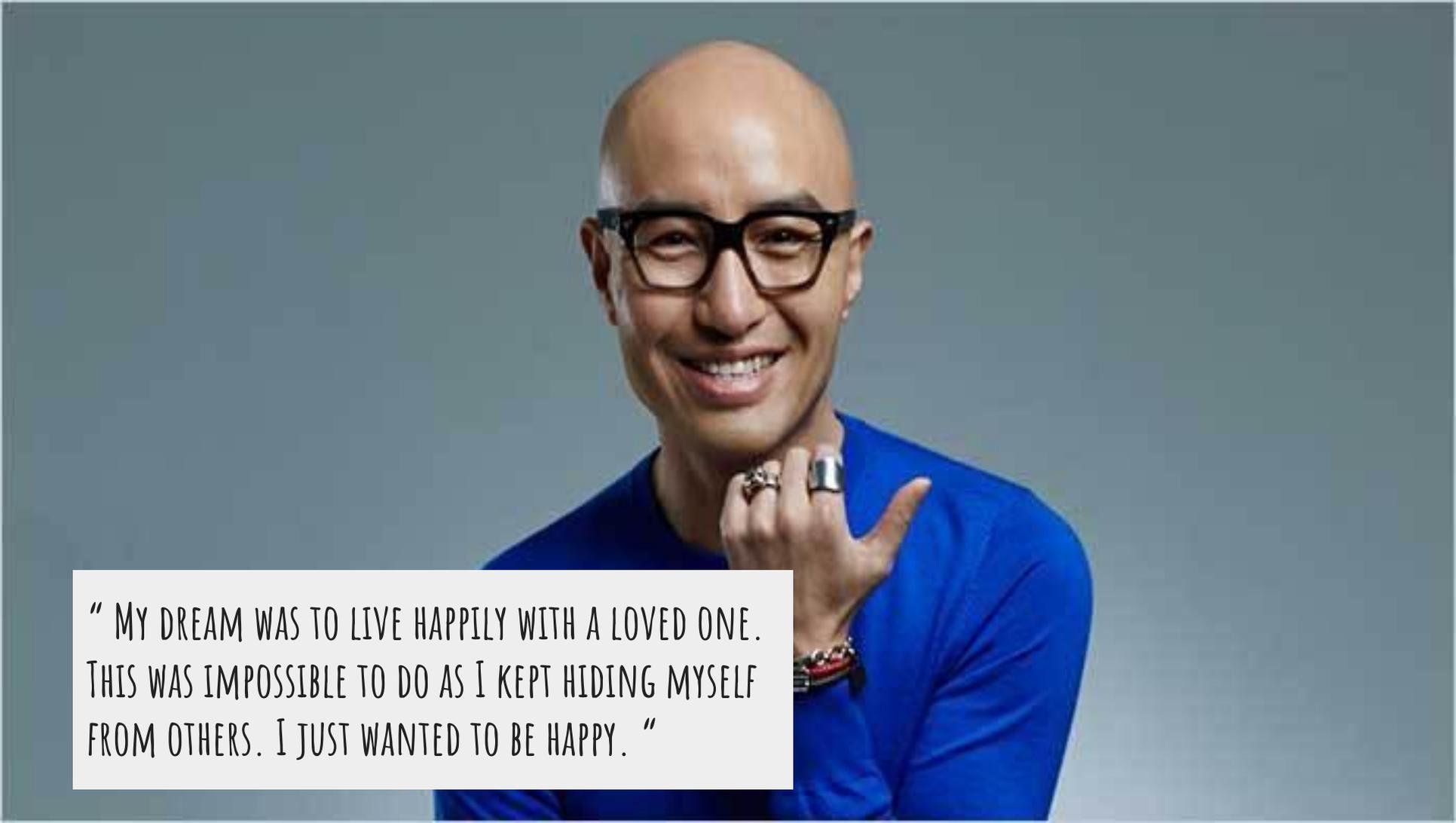


His career plumed after making his statement. Hong was basically forced out from the industry, leaving him no trace on television.

His life came to a turning point in 2003, when a director decided to cast Hong for his TV drama.

He successfully came back and played a huge role in changing the perception towards the queers and gay people.

He is also a owner of several successful restaurants in a city called Itaewon, known to be a friendly environment for gays and foreigners.

A portrait of a smiling bald man with glasses, wearing a blue shirt, with a quote overlaid on the image. The man is looking directly at the camera with a warm smile. He is wearing black-rimmed glasses and has several rings on his fingers. The background is a plain, light blue-grey color.

“ MY DREAM WAS TO LIVE HAPPILY WITH A LOVED ONE. THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO AS I KEPT HIDING MYSELF FROM OTHERS. I JUST WANTED TO BE HAPPY. ”