

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON THE MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL

In order to inform its scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1, the Equal Opportunities Committee is looking for views both on the provisions set out in the Bill (such as allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships, or civil partnerships changing to marriage), and on wider issues relating to the Bill such as freedom of speech.

We wish to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to submit their views and to facilitate this, a submission of views form is available at:

www.scottish.parliament.uk/marriagecivilpartnershipviews

The questions below explain what is covered by the form

Questions 1-3 ask people for their contact details, whether they wish to submit their views anonymously, and whether they have read and understood the [Policy on Treatment of Written Evidence by Subject and Mandatory Committees](#).

Questions 4 to 14 are about the Bill's proposals and wider issues. Respondents are able to comment on as many or as few as they wish.

For questions 4 to 11, respondents are able to select in relation to that question whether they are in support, in opposition, or neither, as well as add comments.

4. How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?

5. How would you characterise your views on the introduction of same sex marriage, so that same sex couples can marry each other?

6. How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?

7. How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including the opt-in procedures)?

8. How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriage?

9. How would you characterise your views on allowing civil marriage ceremonies to take place anywhere, other than religious premises, agreed between the couple and registrar?

10. How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

11. How would you characterise your views on allowing transgender persons to stay married when obtaining a full Gender Recognition Certificate, which provides legal recognition in the acquired gender?

12. Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?

13. Would you like to comment on the wider issue of freedom of speech?

14. Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?

At question 15, we ask whether you are responding as:

- an academic
- a celebrant
- a faith/belief-based organisation
- a faith/belief local group or congregation
- an LGBT group
- another representative body
- a private individual
- a public body
- other (with room to specify)

Submissions and further information on the progression of the Stage 1 inquiry will be made available at:

www.scottish.parliament.uk/marriagecivilpartnerships

Views can be submitted using the form, or in writing.

Please—

- **structure your response using the questions above** – if you wish to add any further issues, use additional headings at the end of your response
- **read the [policy on treatment of written evidence by subject and mandatory committees](#)** before sending your submission
- **try not to exceed 6 sides of A4**
- **send submissions by email** to Equal.Opportunities@scottish.parliament.uk or **by post** c/o the Clerk, Equal Opportunities Committee, TG.01, The Scottish Parliament, EDINBURGH, EH99 1SP
- **contact us** with any queries, by email or by post as above or by telephone on 0131 348 5408.