MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM TIMOTHY BARKER

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

In opposition

I feel very strongly that marriage is between one man and one woman only. It is ordained by God and no-one has the right to change its definition.

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

In opposition

This focuses on the rights of adults and fails to understand that marriage is much more than simply love. It provides the vital service of producing children in some but not all cases. Marriage therefore involves commitment to each other and to any subsequent children. It is unclear as to what rights same gender marriage would provide in addition to that already available under civil partnership agreements.

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

In opposition

As a Christian marriage is ordained by God and in a religious ceremony it is God who joins the two people together not the celebrant.

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)?

In opposition

If a civil ceremony then I do not have a comment, but in a religious ceremony then I support the traditional view of marriage.

How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

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

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?

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

I am VERY concerned about the lack of protection for those who support the traditional view of marriage. We are promised protection but it is absent in the proposed legislation, and already in England there is a court case to seek to force a church to hold a same gender marriage service. Currently legislation has seen the demise of all faith-based adoption agencies including here in Scotland. There is no protection for those working in the public sector who support traditional marriage, and some have already lost their employment because of their belief. That is simply not equality but seeking to 'shut up' those who disagree with the re-defining of marriage. Many traditional marriage organisations will probably lose their charitable status and therefore have to close. How is this providing a broad view across the nation. It is simply seeking to force people to agree with the current political ideologies which may be 'here today and gone tomorrow', and ignore the basis on which much of our culture, institutions and society is built.

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

Governments speak of freedom of speech but only if it concurs with their views. Politicians need to remember that whilst they have a vote, it is the people who vote them in and out of office. People who support the long-standing law of marriage are now accused of discrimination by objecting to the re-defining of marriage.

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

There is a total lack of understanding that our belief is not one we can switch on and off. The view that we can be Christians in our homes but not outside is naïve and shows a complete lack of understanding of what our faith is about. Specific amendme

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Timothy Barker
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