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

In support

With the exception of some parts of the bill, as will be detailed later.

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

In support

It is extremely important that the difference that has held through civil partnerships being the only option for same sex couples is removed. Same sex couples unfortunately still suffer from discrimination within our society and removing this difference

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

In support

Marriage is not about religion, but about love and commitment. It is only right that belief celebrants are on the same footing as religious celebrants in order to allow couples who have no religion to have an equality of ceremony to those who have religi

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 support

This allows for freedom of religions to do as they feel is right. However, 11(2)(g) should be amended to allow religious and belief celebrants to use the gender free form of the marriage ceremony for mixed sex couples if those couples want that. This s

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

In support

But feel that couples who have a civil partnership that was registered outside of Scotland should be enabled to change to a marriage through the options provided within the bill. It is unfair on those who have a civil partnership registered outside of Scotland, as if they wished to change their partnership to a marriage, they would have to show the dissolution of their civil partnership, which is categorically NOT
what they would be wanting, as that would need to be shown by a breakdown in their relationship. This prevents those who had a civil partnership registered outside of Scotland to be able to marry, which is discriminatory.

**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?**

In support

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

In support

**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?**

In support

However, the requirement of the consent of the transgenders spouse before a married transgender person can have their gender recognition is unacceptable. This could lead to cases where the spouse both refuses a divorce or causes problems so that the gain

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

I feel that it is unacceptable for civil registrars to be able to opt out of performing same sex marriages. They are performing a civil duty on behalf of the state and as such they must not be able to opt out of the grounds of religion. If this was allowed it could set a dangerous precedent where other public service providers then refuse their duty when it comes to same sex couples, which is unacceptable and discriminatory. Also it has been suggested by some that teachers should be able to opt out of discussing same sex marriage if it should come up in class etc. This is extremely discriminatory and would seriously affect young people growing up within our tolerant society to give them the message that same sex marriage can be "hidden" away. What of the child in that class who has same sex married parents. This must not be allowed.

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

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

Civil partnerships should be extended to mixed-sex couples, by not doing so is discriminatory. It is particularly problematic to those who are in a civil partnership who change their gender. I also feel that the current situation with regards to pension
Are you responding as...

a private individual

Talitha Brown
21 August 2013