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

In support

It is about time that we removed all impediments to equal treatment for those that are different to us. This is about building peace in our communities.

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

In support

Love is universal, we should stop saying one sort of love is better than another. Being judgmental causes conflict in communities.

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

In support

Why not- humanists fall in love as well.

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

If they wish, if they do not want to do this that is also fine.

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

Neither

I think civil partnerships should be open to everyone including heterosexual couples. I am not in favour of civil partnerships becoming marriages they are not the same thing.

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

We already have civil marriages between heterosexuals allowed anywhere so extending this to all relationships is rather obvious.
How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

In support

Part of the stigma attached to gay and lesbian relationships suggests that they have no spiritual soul. Allowing religious groups to celebrate and perform civil partnerships if they wish recognized the falseness of this statement.

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

I think these cases need to be considered on an individual basis and that there should be no legal impediment to either remaining married to the existing partner or of dissolving the marriage should that be the agreed course between the couple.

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

I think that religious congregations and individuals who have concerns about this should not have it imposed upon them. So existing registrars should be able to opt out of same sex marriages if they have a problem with it but they should not be able to propagate their ideas. I would see that any new registrar must be open minded enough to conduct all kinds of ceremony.

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

Freedom of speech is fine providing it does not inflame division and is seen and taken as the view of the individual. Some of the media are about trying to provoke division and this should not be allowed.

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

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Anthony Buxton
30 June 2013