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

In support

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

In support

Marriage is simply a matter of two people, joining themselves by law in recognition of their love. There is debate as to whether same sex marriage demeans the institution of marriage. I am of the opinion that any degradation to the institution of marriage suffered thus far, could only logically have happened between partners of an opposite sex. United Kingdom law is set on precedent and not on constitution. We learn from history, and allow it to form our laws of today. I simply don't see how the impact of gay marriage could be determined as positive or negative, without having any precedent. There is a matter concerning gay marriage that I would like to draw attention to. Many view Gay Marriage as potentially ruining families; breaking down a structure that apparently the modern world has not already eroded with countless "nuclear families" developing every day. On this, however, there is precedent. There have been children, nurtured and cared for by gay parents who have grown to lead very successful lives. There are studies which even suggest that same sex parents provide a better environment for children. I believe there may be some store in that, owing to the fact that same sex parents would only ever be able to have a child through a mutual decision to care for one.

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

In support

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

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

In support

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

I believe that gender should be of no significance in anyone's eligibility to marry another person, and that of course any transgender person's marriage should be made no less valid by their change of gender. It is a physical change, having no effect upon their heart or soul in regards to whomever they love.

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

I find the idea that anyone who is not involved in a same sex union, or relationship, should have any need of protection from one to be ludicrous. It is a matter of equal treatment, that I think should work both ways. It is my view that unions should be equal amongst sexual orientations. If Civil Partnerships are to be kept in existence then I would support legislation allowing opposite sex couples to become Civil Partners, too. Every couple should have a choice as to how they are joined, supported in law.

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?

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Calum Calder
16 August 2013