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

In support

I strongly support this bill as a step towards equality of civil rights irrespective of sexuality.

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 essential in a society that basic civil rights such as marriage should not be denied to people on the basis of their sexuality.

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

In support

This is a very welcome proposal. It cannot be right that only Registrars can officiate at civil partnerships.

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

I fully support the proposal to permit civil partners to change their partnership to a marriage by means of a low-cost administrative arrangement. I commend to you the comments of the Equality Network in respect of couples now living in Scotland but whose civil partnerships were registered abroad.

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

This provides a very welcome flexibility.
How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

In support

If a religious body wishes to provide this service then it should be made possible for them to do so.

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 more inclined to be concerned about protections for LGBT people who for years have suffered discrimination and abuse. It would be intolerable to allow those who may have concerns about equal marriage a means of continuing such discrimination. I believe the bill has struck the correct balance. Those in civil employment such as registrars and teachers who might have concerns about same sex marriage are not being asked, of course, to change their personal views. However, in the conduct of their professional duties it would be intolerable if such personal views were allowed to intrude.

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

I cannot see how the bill will have any negative effect on freedom of speech.

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

I continue to believe that civil partnerships should be open to mixed sex couple and am disappointed that the bill does not include this provision. Notwithstanding this concern I very much welcome this bill and thank all whose work has brought it to fruition.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Douglas Campbell
23 August 2013