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

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

In general I support the Bill in that those in existing CPs can either have a marriage ceremony or change their CP to a marriage through an administrative process. However, it leaves those who have registered their CP elsewhere in the world unable to marry in Scotland as they would first have to dissolve their CP, a lengthy and costly procedure which no one is going to choose to do as it will often require partners to prove their relationship has broken down and that they are living apart. They would also need to dissolve their partnership in the country their CP was registered in, not feasible if they now live in Scotland. Can ALL Civil Partnerships be able to either marry through the normal process or via an administrative one?

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

As the bill stands, a married person will require the consent of their spouse to obtain gender recognition. This enables the spouse to effectively “veto” the trans person’s gender recognition, or at least to delay it while the trans person applies for.

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 aware that it has been proposed that civil registrars should be granted an opt-out of conducting same-sex civil marriages. They are public servants and should not be allowed to pick and choose who they serve based on personal opinion. The same applies to teachers. They should not have an opt-out of teaching about same-sex marriage, they have a duty to teach the facts not their personal feelings.

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

I cannot see how this Bill affects freedom of speech.

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

Is there any work to be done on opening up Civil Partnerships to mixed-sex couples? Also under the current rules, private sector pension schemes will be allowed to pay much smaller survivor’s pensions to people in same-sex marriages than to those in

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Helen Carmichael
21 August 2013