MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM CHANGING ATTITUDE SCOTLAND

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

There are some specific points to the Bill which we would seek to amend, but Changing Attitude Scotland, which is a group existing within the Scottish Episcopal Church, is in general very supportive of the Bill.

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?
Neither

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 opposition

It is the view of Changing Attitude Scotland that the requirement for a whole denomination to opt in in order for an individual religious celebrant to solemnise same-sex marriage denies religious freedom to individual celebrants. Our group includes a number of Episcopalian clergy who are already authorised celebrants of opposite-sex marriage and would be eager to celebrate same-sex marriage, but under the proposed legislation will be unable to do so at present.

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

We do not believe that there should be a requirement for individuals who have gone through civil partnership ceremonies to go through a second ceremony in order to be married.

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 opposition

We believe that religious bodies should not be involved in a civil contract. We note that religious bodies have never been able to register civil marriages.

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

We welcome this proposed change.

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

We believe that the protections laid out in the proposed legislation are more than sufficient. As we have already mentioned, we believe that the opt in proposals for whole religious denominations actually take these protections too far as they infringe on the religious freedoms of individual celebrants.

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

We believe that children from all family backgrounds have the right to an education in which their family background is recognised positively.

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 faith/belief-based organisation

Beth Routledge
Changing Attitude Scotland
23 August 2013