MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM SUSAN CHEYNE

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

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

In support

The ability to form a lasting and legal relationship between 2 people who want to commit to each other should not be dictated by sexual orientation in the same way that race is not an issue in marriage. Gay couples should not be forced to have a second cl

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

In support

Humanist celebrants in Scotland can already conduct legally-recognised marriages. The bill clarifies that in the law, and makes clear that other philosophical belief organisations can also apply to conduct marriages. I welcome this.

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

I agree that religious and belief organisations should be free to decide for themselves whether to solemnise only mixed-sex marriages, or same-sex marriages as well. Some religious bodies want to conduct same-sex marriages, including the Quakers, Unitaria

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

In support

I agree that conversion of a CP to marriage can be done by either an administrative procedure or by the couple having an official marriage ceremony in Scotland.

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
I agree that this should be an option for all people. Heterosexual couples can marry in religious ceremonies so providing the religious organisation/premise agrees this should be an option.

**How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?**

In support

I agree that this should be an option for all people. Heterosexual couples can marry in religious ceremonies so providing the religious organisation/premise agrees this should be an option.

**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 strongly support the principle of allowing transgender people who are married to obtain gender recognition without being required by the state to divorce.

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

Equality is a human right. Non-heterosexual people are functioning and contributing members of society and are therefore entitled to full recognition as such and to be able to live without prejudice. No one will be forced to attend a same-sex marriage.

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

There is no impact on freedom of speech.

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

The bill is a huge step forward for equality, but it does not introduce full equal marriage. Apart from the issues mentioned under questions 7, 8 and 11 above, the main thing missing from the bill is the introduction of mixed-sex civil partnerships. That

**Are you responding as...**

an academic
a private individual

Susan Cheyne
21 August 2013