MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM CHILDREN IN SCOTLAND

Views from across the children’s sector on the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill are varied so, therefore as an organisation with a vast and diverse membership we cannot offer a representative view on behalf of our members on the general issue of same sex marriage.

However, Children in Scotland and our members are committed to equality and human rights and are concerned with any legislation that may impact upon the lives and wellbeing of children in Scotland. We are not aware of any evidence that suggests children brought up within same sex relationships may achieve outcomes any different to children who are not. Moreover, there is no evidence to suggest that same sex partners have any different or poorer parenting ability.

In this sense, we see no problem with references to same sex relationships being included within the curriculum where marriages and relationships are discussed, and would urge the Equal Opportunities Committee to oppose any amendments suggesting otherwise.

Finally, bullying in any form can impact significantly on the life chances of children and young people, and equality for LGBT people in law could help to prevent homophobic bullying in schools. Children in Scotland strongly support any proposals that could aid in the prevention of bullying.

Sara Collier
Policy Officer
Children in Scotland
23 August 2013
Children in Scotland receives funding from the Third Sector Early Intervention Fund

Children in Scotland is the national umbrella agency for organisations and professionals working with and for children, young people and their families. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that policies and services and other provisions are of the highest possible quality and are able to meet the needs of a diverse society. Children in Scotland represents more than 400 members, including most of Scottish local authorities, all major voluntary, statutory and private children’s agencies, professional organisations, as well as many other smaller community groups and children’s services. It is linked with similar agencies in other parts of the UK and Europe.

The work of Children in Scotland encompasses extensive information, policy, research and practice development programmes. The agency works closely with MSPs, the Scottish Government, local authorities and practitioners. It also services groups such as the Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Children and Young People (with YouthLink Scotland). In addition, Children in Scotland hosts Enquire - the national advice service for additional support for learning, and Resolve: ASL, Scotland’s largest independent education mediation service.