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

In support

Having separate unions in the eyes of the law, purely dependent on the sexes of the two people that make a couple, has an obvious degree of segregation and thus only goes part-way in giving equal rights to opposite-sex an same-sex couples. This is the 21st Century - we can no longer allow religious beliefs to dictate our societies, which can be seen by the approval of Humanist opposite-sex marriages yet not same-sex ones, despite both being performed outside of any religious body. Love is love.

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's about time!

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

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

Despite being pro-gay marriage, I also believe people nor the state have the moral right to force someone to conduct a ceremony they are against.

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

Neither

The option of civil partnership should still exist for those who may be against being married because, for example, they may see marriage as a religious ritual that has been set mostly for opposite-sex couples, and so they may feel they don't want to be part of a (religious) ceremony that has discriminated against same-sex couples (rather than feeling that gays shouldn't be married purely because most - if not all - religions say that people of the same sex should not be allowed to do so). However, I think civil partnership should only exist if it is available to same-sex and opposite-sex couples.

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

Couples' preference of location for marriage can reflect their personalities, for better or worse.

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

In support

Variety can be a good thing. It may turn the religious world on its head a bit, but it can cope, and not every sect of every religion has an outright obligation/duty to change (although some should...)

**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

Think of the mental effects that not allowing this would have on someone - if it were me, I'd feel angry and maybe even undervalued.

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

To those who may be concerned (above): just because some people of the same sex want to marry each other, it doesn't mean you have to marry someone who is the same sex as you. You have your lives, others have theirs.

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

People are always entitled to their opinions, yet some views are hugely dangerous and shouldn't be voiced, eg plans of terrorism. I believe people have moral obligations to keep certain beliefs they have to themselves, eg racist/sexist ones.

**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 humanist.

Maeve Convery
23 August 2013