MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM MARGARET CRAIG

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

In opposition

I object to the amount of money being spent on this for the sake of gaining popularity with a small but very vocal group who have all the rights of married people, when there are so many needs in N.H.S., Education etc.

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

In opposition

If we begin to redefine marriage where will it stop? Will it eventually call incestuous or bestial behaviour marriage? What about the confusion and insecurities caused to young children who will be trained to accept this as the norm and what about the long term health effects on a huge number if all restraint of behaviour is cast off?

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

Celebrants ought to have the freedom to refuse without being penalised. We hear much of the rights of LGBT etc but I have never known a time when now so many who have strong beliefs are no longer being free to express them or are now beginning to be penalised at job interviews and in the workplace. What of their rights?

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

In opposition

Totally unnecessary --- all this will lead to is confusion in many areas of society. After all, if I want to buy a bungalow I'm not going to want to buy a shop just because someone has redefined it and called all buildings bungalows!

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?
Neither

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

Neither

Unsure what is meant by this but if it means that religious establishments would be forced to permit these ceremonies to take place in their premises, then I would oppose this.---- Those responsible for the care of a golf-course presumably have the right to refuse permission to those who would want to play football or rugby on the course. This issue seems to have thrown common-sense out the window!!!!!!!

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?

Neither

This is an example of how, having thrown out the basic standards of acceptable behaviour we are now tying ourselves in knots!

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

Deeply concerned! I was shocked at the short-sightedness that resulted is adoption agencies etc being forced to close because they had a pro-marriage policy. I spent many years working with youngsters many of whom came from confused or needy situations---- would I have been prevented from doing so if I had expressed my belief in traditional marriage? If I had a spare room and decided to do B&B would I not have the right to say what kind of behaviour was acceptable in my home? Should people be penalised in job interviews etc. because of their beliefs -- after all if I was going through an operation I'd want to havea good surgeon regardless of personal living rather than one who shared my faith or lack of it but who was incompetent in their work.

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

Far greater protection is needed for those who express concerns or disagree about this issue. We no longer have freedom of speech in our land when people particularly those in contact with the public through their work are fearful of expressing their opinions about this area. People should not be removed from their posts for expressing personal viewpoints ---- this is not discrimination, it is just healthy debate.

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 private individual