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

In support

This bill is vital to creating a more equal society, it is a travesty that this has not happened a long time before now. My relationships shouldn't be treated differently to straight ones!!

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

In support

As a campaigner for equality I welcome this wholeheartedly. It is crucial that the state does not treat relationships differently, this includes implementing the adultery principle to same sex marriages.

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

In support

Humanists can already conduct legal marriages so it is only correct that this right is expanded to other non religious belief systems. It is time to end religious privilege.

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

Choice has to be crucial, organisations can decide for themselves. The vast majority of same sex couples would not want to be married in a body which does not respect them. This choice should include allowing bodies to use non gender specific language, this makes it easier for intersex and transgender people to solemnise their relationships.

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

Neither

Again choice is crucial those wanting to change their partnership into a marriage must have the choice of either a full blown ceremony or a simply filling out a form, there should be no cost to changing this as it is the government's fault that marriage was not in place for these couples at the time of solemnisation. The bill currently does not allow those with civil partnerships elsewhere to marry in Scotland, there is
no reason for this. In fact this results in a cruel situation where those who have moved to Scotland have to prove their civil partnership has broken down in order to dissolve it. There is no logical reason to put couples in that situation.

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 see no reason why this would present a problem if the premises and couple are happy why should the state interfere.

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

In support

At the core of this bill, is enshrining choice, if couples want civil partnerships conducted by religious bodies I see no reason to prevent them having them.

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

The idea that Trans people would be forced to divorce to change their gender identity is an absolute disgrace. This is discrimination of the highest order and causes unnecessary heartbreak. The practical nature of the marriage does not change as a trans person has to have been living as their preferred gender for two years before transition occurs. There should be no spousal veto on transition as this is a personal matter for the trans person alone. It is also crucial that the minimum age for gender recognition is brought into line with the age for marriage, i.e 16.

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

The bill strikes the right balance, there should be no opt out for registrars they are there to serve the public not trumpet their own beliefs if they have an issue they can easily find another job more suited. This should also apply to teachers.

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

The bill has no effect 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 only addition I would make to the bill, as well as some concerns raised above, is that mixed sex couples should also be able to enter into civil partnerships further enshrining choice at the heart of the bill.
Are you responding as...

a private individual

Euan Davidson
14 August 2013