MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM DEESIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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

In opposition

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

In opposition

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)?

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

In opposition

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?

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

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?

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

While the law requires schools to provide religious education, it also protects atheist teachers from being compelled to teach it. Similar space should be given to
teachers who, for religious convictions or otherwise, do not feel able to teach about same-sex marriage.

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

The issue of freedom of speech in this context is crucial because it is the expression of beliefs about marriage that tends to get people into trouble. Aside from a declaratory clause which has no practical impact (Clause 14), the Government’s Bill does not address this issue. More robust safeguards are needed to ensure that no person will be compelled to express agreement with a same-sex marriage or be punished for expressing their disagreement with it.

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 celebrant
a faith/belief-based organisation
a faith/belief local group or congregation

Robert Hamilton
Deeside Christian Fellowship Church
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