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

In support

Like the majority of reasonable people - I understand that a majority hold these views - I am in favour of marriage equality regardless of gender orientation. At this point in our developed society, it is far past time that such gender marriage prejudice be put behind us and full equality be adopted by the parliament and the populace.

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

In support

I have been in favour of marriage equality since I became aware of the irrational opposition to such a concept. Such irrational opposition has tried to put forward spurious and bigoted views that serve to divide the community. There is no danger in marria

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

In support

Marriage celebrants need to be registered within the legal system regardless of their beliefs or the beliefs of the organisations they belong to. It is the constant need to divide and categorise these non-issues (in my mind) that delay and obfuscate le

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

No celebrant can be forced to conduct ceremonies that he/she does not wish to conduct. There can never be any coercion. Celebrants (and their organisations) that wish to exclude one group or another should be free to do so. So, of course, opting in is far

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

In support

If the term marriage is to remain the chosen form of union then all civil partnerships should be able to convert their legal relationship to that of marriage should they so desire. It should consist of bureaucratic paperwork only. Those who prefer a totally
non-religious or belief ceremony should always be able to access a civil marriage registration for their purpose. It is the false differentiation of partnership unions that needs to be eradicated.

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

Of course the participating couple should be able to choose the venue in which they and their celebrant conduct such ceremonies. All marriages have (by law) to be registered under Births, Deaths and Marriages. It is of no consequence, nor should it be,

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

In support

There should be no difference between marriages and civil partnerships regardless of the celebrant (or organisation). If the participants want a civil partnership they should be free to seek a celebrant to conduct such a ceremony. It would, however, be

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

I haven’t had much thought about this but understand that, at present, the Gender Recognition Certificate can only be issued with the consent of the other partner. I seriously think that anyone who takes the step of trans gender assignment needs to be

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

There has been some issue with Registrars possibly objecting to conducting same sex marriages. I do not think that public servants have the right to dictate their personal preferences within the confines of their employment. They can, of course, resign their employment should the requirements of their work be at odds with their personal preferences. Or they can organise another person to undertake their role. There are numerous other societal, educational and health issues that can and, of course, will arise. They will have to be addressed as and when they arise, however, the guiding principle needs to be based on equality, compassion and honesty.

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

Gosh - where to start. Freedom of speech is a right that carries responsibilities. As does membership to any society in which one lives.
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

Veronica Denyer
21 August 2013