MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM DANIEL ARTHUR GALLAGHER

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

In support

I think the inequality here is vile and indefensible. I think that opposition should be called on the bigotry that it is - even if religious. Sanctioned discrimination is still discrimination

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 want to be free to get married in my homeland.

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

In support

This is only fair

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

I agree with the opt-in for practical reasons, thought I would prefer an opt-out system. As long as all couples have equality then I am happy.

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

In support

I think all CPs should be upgraded but only because I disagree with the tiered system. I think that civil partners should be free to upgrade or keep their CP but I think that civil partnerships should be stopped and no more given out.

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 don't see why religious premises can't be used with consent but I think this is a brilliant idea. Marriage should be a liberal and loving ceremony, not confined.
How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

In opposition

I think civil partnerships should be ended.

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

This is absolutely necessary. There is no justifiable opposition.

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

Bigotry does not need to be protected. Though people can have their opinions against equality there is no need to enshrine them in legislation and no need for bigoted actions and statements to be protected. Disagreeing with equal marriage does not require we trip over ourselves not to be equal, it means that some people should get perspective and stop their hatred. We need more education on sexuality in general and ESPECIALLY on non-straight sexualities in schools to protect people from themselves as regards bigotry.

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

There has been no infringement on freedom of speech that I've seen. I think there should be louder condemnation of the opponents of equality - protecting your voterbase by failing to stand up for your marginalised constituents is deplorable. It's popular to stand up for women and racial minorities but still not cool to defend LGBT people and you all need to consider why you aren't tearing up headlines in condemning the bigotry of equal marriage opponents.

Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?

I am exceptionally pleased by the provisions for Humanist ceremonies and the liberalisation of location if agreed with the registrar.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Daniel Arthur Gallagher
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