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

I am a transgendered person and total equality in everything is important.

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

Same sex couples can be far more loyal to their commitment to a partnership than those who marry opposite sex at a whim to then go through a chain of divorces.

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

I often hear religious leaders claiming that marriage is only something they can allow and carry out, and that their views and beliefs should be above any consideration. Well marriage isn't wholly owned by any religion, but by people who support that ideal of marriage commitment whatever the circumstances.

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 have no issue with this. If people want a marriage that isn't backed by any religion that is fine with me, even no matter what genders make up that loving committed couple.

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

This should be down to the individuals concerned if they want to have their CP's turned into "same sex marriages". Some may still prefer to have a marriage with no religious solemnising element. You need to ask those involved at the time.

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

You should be able to get married in any "public" building in my opinion .. I still have my doubts about it being done in private places and homes where one of the couple maybe under duress, as in arranged marriages.

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

Neither

I would have thought those wanting to have a religious / belief based ceremony would want to have it in an arena where they would normally practice that religion or belief.

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 fully support this. I am waiting for the UK law to kick in so that I can do that. My partner and I have been married for nearly 31 years and we are still together. I transitioned 8 years ago and had surgery 5 1/2 years ago. This has changed nothing for us. Sadly the British parliament has made that embarrassingly difficult by requiring the partner to supply written consent when I apply for a GRC. This is a nonsense, if the non trans partner in a relationship had any objections to being married to that trans person then she would have terminated that marriage, as about 92% ( from my experience in support groups ) still do.

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

Most of the objections are on purely religious grounds. If they don't want a same sex marriage, they don't have to have one. I am a Christian .. I have no objections to any one of another faith getting married across religious groups, or across religious groups and genders. People who have a belief that a certain books proclamations are the truth and not a work of fiction that people have started to believe is fact from a work of fiction are clearly mislead by their leaders or that possible work of fiction book. The Christian bible has only been in existence for a little over 2000 years, other religious books go back a lot further .. how ever none are supported by hard provable fact rather than and scientific evidence.

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

I am all for "freedom of speech" .. but with that freedom should come respect for each others views, especially if based on misguided, unprovable religious dogma.

Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?
I would hope that the Scottish Parliament are at least as brave on the Bill as the British Parliament and House of Lords were, on the Trans issues they should be taking representation from organized bodies that truly support those people as to what would be right and wrong.

Are you responding as...

-an LGBT group
-a private individual
-a Transexual woman

Sarah Gosling
14 August 2013