MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM NATALIE GRAHAM

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

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

How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?
Neither
Belief in some imaginary being, force, or whatever should not be considered legitimate grounds for discrimination. Religious or other beliefs should not be considered reasons for exemption from equality legislation.

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 support

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

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?
In support
Regardless of equal marriage legislation it is appalling that married transexual people should have to choose between ending a marriage or giving up their right to
legal recognition of their true gender. On the same topic I find it very unsatisfactory that there should be a register of transexual people who have exercised their rights to amend their birth certificates.

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

People who have 'concerns' about same sex marriage should be protected in the same way and to the same extent that we would regard it proper to protect those who believe wives should be the property of their husbands or that white people should not marry black people. If people want to discriminate against others because of what it says in some ancient book of creation myths or because of ignorance or prejudice then it is not the place of wider society to 'protect' them in this view. If two people want to get married then it their business and their's alone. What anyone else might think of it is irrelevant.

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

**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

Natalie Graham
15 August 2013