MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM DAVID HEARTY

How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?
In support
I'm glad that the current administration has brought forward this important legislation which will help take Scotland into the 21st century. I disagree with opponents who say they have no mandate for this. Any elected Government would have a blanket mandate to bring forward legislation that promotes fairness and equality for all.

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 prefer to call it "Equal Marriage" but otherwise I am just fine with it.

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

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 understand there is a part of the bill that should be amended to allow those conducting the ceremony to use gendered or non gendered language. So that those who wish to conduct mixed sex ceremonies can continue to use 'Husband & Wife' etc. as laid out by the Equality Network.

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?
In support
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 don't think a spouse should be allowed to 'Veto' the gender recognition of their partner, so this needs changed. It should be simpler for people who have been trans gendered for longer periods of time to gain legal recognition.

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

I think the bill provides adequate protection for those that wish to opt out of conducting same sex marriages, as well as protecting those that wish to conduct them.

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

I do believe it is right and fair to allow people the right to speak out against Same Sex Marriages, except where that person is employed by the people of Scotland. Teachers, for example, should not be allowed to criticise same sex couples to their classes, as this could lead to a child with same sex parents to be bullied. I don't think this should be legislated against, however guidance would have to be issued by the Education Minister that teachers should only refer to marriage as being between two consenting adults who love each other.

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

David Hearty
16 August 2013