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

It is fair and right to give same sex couples the right to marry in the same manner as heterosexual couples, and to treat marriage celebrants with the same regard to equality.

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

As a humanist I would see it as fundamental to a society that respects equality to give same sex couples the right to marry each other. On a personal level I think that we should not regard the love between two people and their desire to marry as anyone’s

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

We live in a secular society and elevating one type of celebrant above another is just inconsistent and suggests that one is of lesser than another. There is no justification for making separate - and oftne preferential treatment to religious celebrants.

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 opposition

It is the opt-in procedure I object to although I understand the consideration to allow for opting -out. This seems a mealy-mouthed approach to a very desirable change in the law.

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

If those in civil partnership wish to marry then I see no reason why they should not.
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

Currently humanists authorised by the General Registrar are able to conduct ceremonies in places that are safe and dignified and if the registrars and their employers wish to follow this pattern I see no reason why they shouldn’t. Ceremonies which take pla

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

Neither

Sorry, I didn’t quite understand this question.

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

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

This seems an unacceptable and unprecedented concession. I am aware that this Bill is responding to changes that have taken place in society in the last 50 years and in time to come it will be just accepted. If we had taken a similar view of say anti-slavery, child labour laws, racial and sex discriminations and "protected" those in opposition we would have had a situation where those who opposed what is now regarded as unacceptable discrimination and unfair treatment would have been treated with a respect that is unwarranted. The opt-out arrangements are there for those who are against the arrangements in the Bill because of their religious beliefs.

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 celebrant

Pat Heppell
Humanist Society Scotland
21 August 2013