MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM JEWISH GAY AND LESBIAN GROUP

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

In support

The Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group (JGLG), founded in 1972 as the main social and representative group for LGBT Jews in the UK, warmly welcomes the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill, as a huge and positive step forward for LGBT people and for Scottish society at large.

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

In support

Marriage symbolises not only the committed love of a couple who wish to spend their lives together, but also society's support for such loving family relationships that create strong families and help to build society. Judaism has always promoted marriage.

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

The JGLG broadly supports the aims and methods of the Bill, and understands the double opt-in procedure as providing protection for those religious bodies that are conscientiously opposed to same-sex marriage. However, we also support the amendments put f

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

In support

The JGLG broadly supports the proposals in the Bill, but agrees with the view of the Equality Network that couples whose civil partnership took place outwith Scotland should be able to change their civil partnership to marriage in Scotland by bureaucratic means without dissolving their civil partnership and without the need to have a formal wedding ceremony.
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

We strongly agree with this proposal.

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

In support

There are some same-sex couples who, while religiously committed, find the historical meaning and symbolism of marriage to be inconsistent with their values. The option of a religiously celebrated civil partnership which does not use the language of marriage

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

We support the proposed measures as a significant step towards freedom and equality for trans people, but also strongly support the suggestion of the Equality Network that the permission of the partner of a trans person should NOT be required before the g

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

We believe that the Bill rightly grants fully adequate protection for those who have concerns about same-sex marriage. We respectfully oppose the proposal of ScoJeC that further protection should be given, e.g., to civil celebrants in post before the passing of the Bill or any other religious functionaries (e.g. teachers) other than those who would be directly involved in carrying out a same-sex marriage.

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

The freedom of speech protections offered by the Bill are adequate.

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 faith/belief-based organisation
an LGBT group

Rabbi Mark L Solomon
Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group
21 August 2013