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

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

In opposition

I feel the bill is unnecessary and a distraction from matters which are of importance to the general population. All the legal rights of marriage are already available to same-sex couples through civil partnerships. There is no great demand for same-sex marriage and the other measures contained in the Bill. Marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman for the purpose of companionship and the procreation of children. It is based upon the objective reality of the complementarity of two created genders (male and female). The procreative potential of the institution of marriage is intrinsic to its nature and role in society. That is the reason the state recognises marriage in law. There is significant danger of churches and celebrants who refuse to 'marry' same-sex couples being subject to litigation. In England a gay couple has just announced their intention to sue the Church of England for refusing to conduct same sex marriages. Ultimately this matter may be decided by the European Court of Human Rights. If the law is changed as proposed there is a real chance that at some future date, the court will rule that religion and belief celebrants must either solemnise all 'marriages' or cease to marry people altogether.

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

In opposition

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?

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?
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?

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

I believe that as Christians we could be held accountable for denying same sex marriage in churches, in public life, in schools etc. The bible clearly states that marriage is between a man and a woman so we would be going against what the tenet of our faith believes. I have nothing against homosexuals or lesbians and I do believe that they already have the ability to get marriage in a registrar's office.

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

I believe that if anyone says anything against same sex marriage they will be held accountable.

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

Jeanette MacRae
17 August 2013