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

In opposition

It is unnecessary. Civil partnerships provide the same rights as marriage. The results of the original consultation demonstrated that the majority of people in Scotland are opposed to same-sex marriage although responses were deemed invalid if they were not submitted on the official pro-forma. Many accepted the initial request for the electorate to let its views be known in any way and so signed petitions, sent postcards etc.

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

In opposition

Marriage is a unique relationship between a man and a woman in a lifelong union. Commitment and responsibility are key components. Under the new proposals for redefining marriage, adultery applies to traditional marriage only, so in fact there will now be two-tier marriage - which is not "marriage" at all, Children are a natural possibility in marriage, so children have a mother and father - both necessary in their upbringing. There are no long term studies on the effects of homosexual parenting; the short term studies, initiated by interested parties tend to give the desired results.

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)?

In opposition

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

In opposition

In whichever category same -sex relationships may be placed, it cannot be marriage - they do not meet the criteria.

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?
Cannot comment because I oppose redefining marriage.

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?

Although there is protection for clergy and churches that oppose same-sex marriage, it is very likely that this will be challenged. In England a church is being sued and the Bill has not yet been ratified. Conscientious objection appears to be set aside in our society and people are losing jobs and being arrested for expressing rational opposition to same-sex marriage. (a terrifying experience for innocent people) Children in school will be exposed to educational material from Stonewall, which under the pretext of dealing with bullying is in fact promoting homosexuality at a time when young people can experience attraction to the opposite sex that passes as they grow up. According to the Bill parents would not be allowed to remove their children from classes because it will be cross-curricular. There appears to be little protection for the rights of ordinary people, religious or not, who do not conform!

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

Freedom of speech is undoubtedly in jeopardy if this Bill is passed. Conformity is essential, otherwise there will be unpleasant consequences. Public servants are being told to find other jobs at a time when unemployment is high, if they refuse to set aside their beliefs and silence their consciences. Without true freedom of speech there can be no democracy - a high price to pay for equality for one small section of society.

Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?

The family, often referred to as the building blocks of society, is under threat. The destabilising effect of this Bill will provoke unrest in many ways and cause repercussions that only those with foresight can imagine.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Murdina Macleod
12 August 2013