MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM KEVIN MACPHAIL

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

In opposition

I feel that the role of marriage is between a man and a woman, redefining marriage is unnecessary as civil partnerships exits and this puts a lot of time and money that could be better spent elsewhere (eg health, education 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 an act between one woman and one man, this pre dates the law of the nation and even our national church. It is not clear what new rights this new marriage set up will give those in same sex partnerships that they do not have already other than opening up a clear avenue where the church leaves itself open to legal action if it holds to the scripture rather than the law of the land.

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

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

In opposition

As stated earlier, I feel that the definition of marriage is between one man and one woman. Changing this could result in further alterations such as the legalisation of poly-amorous marriages which is something that I feel would lead to further moral decline as I have never found any people in open relationships to be happy and often aggression and conflict are the norm.

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?

Neither

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

In opposition
Many ministers are opposed to homo sexual marriage and, if this bill is passed, would leave themselves open to legal proceedings if they refused to conduct the service based on their own conscience and beliefs. If anything I believe that homosexual marr

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?

Conscience clause should be introduced for those who are morally objected to the marriage of homosexual couples to ensure that they are not penalised by the law for making a concise decision based on their faith and beliefs. Ministers and church elders who are opposed to homo sexual marriage would leave themselves open to legal proceedings if they refused to conduct the service based on their own conscience and beliefs. If anything I believe that homosexual marriage should not take place in a religious establishment at all where membership for practising homosexuals isn't an option.

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

The freedom of speech act helps those who are "in the minority" as long as it sides with the governments view. However it doesn't help the like of the church where if they say that they believe homosexual practices are wrong due to the church being based and driven by the gospel. People that have a moral objection to something that is not the way the modern thinking goes have no protection and are often referred to as "bigots". In this day and age saying "God loves you" is deemed offensive, yet the secular community can proclaim from the rooftops that there is no God and Christians are misguided fools and this is done in free speech. A one sided cause here.

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

Kevin Macphail
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