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

In support

If Scotland is to move forward as a country, whether it be independent or continuing as part of the UK, it cannot afford to exclude any of its citizens. It is the duty of every government to allow every person under its care the same rights. The Scottish Government must show itself to be progressive and fair, giving the same rights to all Scots.

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

In support

The only right thing to do. No person should ever be told that they are lesser than another, that they cannot be with the person they love and enjoy the same rights as everyone else, simply because of who they love. There is not one single good reason to deny these rights to anyone, there are only reasons of self-interest or prejudice and those in opposition of this bill and in opposition of any LGBT rights are holding back not only Scotland but the human race. This is 2013, for goodness sake: we should be reaching the stars and curing cancer. Instead we're arguing about whether to grant a person basic human rights. Let's get moving.

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

In support

If churches don't want to marry two people who are clearly in love, then to hell with them (yes, I meant that). Move with the times or get out of the way. Yes, it would be nice if the churches came along with us but if they don't, they should not be allowed to hold anyone back.

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

No-one should be forced to do anything that they don't want to do. I've heard various heads of the church say that they don't want to be forced into performing same-sex marriage. Nor should they be. However, I don't believe that anyone is saying that. By the same token, why should ministers or priests be forced NOT to perform same-sex marriages? Sadly, religious organizations must make the decision on whether or not individuals can perform marriages but ideally, each minister or priest would decide for themselves.
How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

In support

Civil partnership was never and will never be a solution. It is to say "your love is lesser and does not deserve the same rights as mine". It should never be more complicated than for any two people, of any sexual orientation, to say "I love you, let's get married".

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

Anyone should be able to be married anywhere, unless of course, there is a good reason why not. Like in a building that's on fire, or the middle of an active battlefield. But that's just common sense. Yeah, beach, halfway up a mountain, the large hadron collider, whatever.

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

In support

Again, people should be allowed the option of being married the way they want, by the person they want. And anyone who wishes to conduct a marriage should be allowed to.

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

Let me read up on this a bit......... Okay. So, a person wouldn't need to divorce in order to gain the correct Gender Recognition? Sounds good. You might want to look at the whole "permission of the spouse" thing though; can't say I like the idea that a disgruntled partner could stop that whole process by not granting a divorce. Just sayin'.

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

I would but I don't know if you allow swearing on this form. Protections? What would they need protecting from? Is this the idea that same-sex marriage somehow destroys "traditional" marriage? I'm a man, married to a woman and someone has yet to explain to me how my marriage is under threat from gay people. You don't have "concerns" about same-sex marriage: you have a bigoted, outdated view about it. You have no place in modern society and your views should never, ever be listened to. You're probably also running for political office under the banner of the
BNP, UKIP, or the Republican party in the USA. Here's your "protection" from same-sex marriage: get over yourself. The rest of us are keen to explore space and cure disease. *drops mic, walks off stage

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

Perhaps another time. I feel it would take longer than I'm willing to give right now: I kind of want to go to bed.

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

Not right now. Like I said: bed.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Fraser McFarlane
17 August 2013