MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM IAN MORRISON

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

In support

Everyone should be treated exactly the same, no matter what sexual preference you are.

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

In support

Very supportive. No one deserves to be treated differently due to their sexual identity.

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

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

Neither

As someone who has had a civil partnership, I think it should be down to individuals who want to transfer their CP to a marriage to do so. I know some people who would rather have a new marriage ceremony. I support it, but not desperate for it to become a blanket change without choice.

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

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

Neither
As an atheist, I think if someone wants this, it should be allowed particularly if the religious body is willing. I don't think churches/belief group should be made to perform. If someone is of a particular religion that doesn't agree with same sex marriage/CPs, then I would heartily recommend that person to rethink their beliefs.

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

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

Civil servants who do not wish to perform civil marriages should not be allowed to perform any. People who are employed and paid from the public purse have no choice but to follow the government legislation. If they disagree, then they need to be re-employed in an alternative role. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are tax payers. Their treatment should not be special, but they should be treated exactly the same as everyone else. As for religious groups, I do not think any group or church should be made to perform a marriage if it goes against their beliefs. As mentioned earlier, I would question anyone who is affiliated with such a group who then goes onto complain that they won't perform a wedding ceremony.

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

In a secular society, the church would not have the position it currently holds. This is my wish for the future of Scotland. Until then, any person of any religion making negative or disparaging comments about LGBT people should fully expect the same in return. They can't have the security of saying "it's in the bible" and then complaining when their hypocritical leader gets 'Bigot of the Year' award. Ideally, the arguments would be respectful, but that's a two-way street.

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

Hats off to the Equality Network for all their hard work and their respectful, reasoned debate when in the public domain, often against some fairly harsh comments.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Ian Morrison
22 August 2013