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

In support

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

In support

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?

In opposition

Civil partnership should be an available option. People may object to marriage for any number of reasons, but should still have the ability for their partnerships to be legal and recognised.

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

Provided the ceremony is not disruptive or dangerous, I cannot see any reason why people shouldn't be able to conduct ceremonies wherever they like. Even if it is, say, on a public towpath, on a bicycle built for two, with all the bridesmaids on tricycles

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

In support

A person's involvement with religion is personal. If it is important to the people involved that their partnership involve some religious element, that's fine, so long as the partnership, as far as the law is concerned, is just that, a partnership. Religi
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

Absolutely in support. The support of a partner can be vitally important to people in gender transition. To have the risk of their legal partnership nullified by their transitioning is not only to compound the stress of an already not very easy process, i

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

By 'concerns', I assume you mean objections, for whatever reason? Religious concerns are most often cited in anti-same-sex marriage debates. These should be no concern of the law as regards partnerships, or the law may as well be concerned with shellfish and pork, mixed fibres, approaching the altar with a defect in one's eye or foot, &c. Another concern is that the recognition of same-sex partnerships makes the childrens gay. Come on. That's silly. Another concern is that it is unnatural. It isn't. Another concern is that it degrades the validity of 'traditional' marriage. Funny, I've been in a heterosexual marriage for over a decade, and I've never noticed the existence of homosexual partnerships degrading in any way-- apart from homosexual people not having the same legal recognition that I have. That is degrading. My concern about people who have concerns about same sex marriage is the often violent intolerance towards LGBT people shown by people with concerns. People are attacked, physically and psychologically bullied without mercy, told from a young and impressionable age that deities hate them and will punish them eternally, marginalised, penalised, denied opportunities, even in this progressive and civilised society. That needs to stop. I don't care what a person's objections are to same sex partnerships: it is perfectly possible for people not to marry other people of the same sex if they object to it, or to belong to a religious organisation that forbids it, or to be privately disgusted by it, if such is their inclination. Protections for people with concerns should involve education that emphasises difference, humanises people of different backgrounds and orientations, encourages independent thought, and enables them to get over themselves a little. It's always an option to put oneself in a bubble.

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

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

Cleodhna Nightshade
21 August 2013