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

I can see no reason why decent people who want to have the legal advantages of a marriage contract, should be denied this possibility. Religious objections by others are really not relevant, because such beliefs are an individual choice and cannot ethically be imposed on others whose point of view is different. The often cited objection that same gender marriage devalues or dishonours "real" marriages is deeply illogical!

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

In support

Religion is a matter of faith, and we all have a right to the faith of our choice, and also the belief celebrant of our choice. It is nobody else's business!

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

So long as those celebrants who have an objection because of their personal beliefs are not placed under legal pressure to conform to a blanket instruction.

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

In support

Many people in a same sex partnerships do have strong spiritual beliefs, and would love to have a blessing in accord with those beliefs from a celebrant who shares their faith.

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?

In support

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

Transgender people often only come to terms with their situation after they have married and had children. Love of their partner may still be real, and if the couple wish to continue together, how would that be any different to them being in a same gender marriage?

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

I don't understand the question. If it is about people who object to same gender relationships feeling threatened by those relationships having public approval and acknowledgement, then I don't know how they could be helped, and would urge them to grow up!

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

Well, it's a fundamental right of everyone in the society we all are involved in creating together. However I do not believe that this right extends to malicious or untrue statements about others which are intended to harm and mislead. It is possible to disapprove of ideas, behaviours and individuals without being destructive. In fact we all have a duty to report or comment upon behaviour of any kind which may harm others, especially in the case of those who need protection, such as children, the elderly and those with special needs.

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

Brian Nobbs
14 August 2013