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

Much of the opposition to same sex marriage originates from religious groups. I am a practising Christian but find nothing in my faith that would in cause me, in principal, to reject the concept of same sex marriage. Firstly, I do not believe that marriage is a sacrament. It is primarily a property contract, the merging of two households into one legal entity, the orchestration of which was appropriated by the medieval church as a means of exercising coercive power over the nobility. Secondly, some Christians object to same sex marriage because they believe it contradicts scripture. However that would, in itself, not justify their opposition to same sex marriage among non-Christians or being undertaken by members of Christian denominations that do not recognise that interpretation of the bible.

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 support

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

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

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

Freedom of expression is a binary opposition. Speech is either free or it isn't. There is no middle ground and there are no shades of grey.

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

Neil O'Docherty
23 August 2013