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

It is more than past time that this measure should be introduced. The idea that marriage can only be between a man and a woman is based in the notion that marriage is primarily or indeed only about producing children, which is an idea that has been outdated for around 200 years. In addition, civil and religious matters, such as religious beliefs about who should be able to marry, need to be clearly separate - as indeed they are in regard to civil marriage and partnerships already - due to the multi-faith nature of Scotland today, including the large number of people who have no faith or religious belief at all. Finally, for those religions, faith groups and belief groups which actively accept same-sex relationships and same-sex marriage, not to be able to carry out a legal wedding ceremony for same-sex relationships is discriminatory against those groups, and therefore illegal.

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

In support

People should be able to marry in a way that is most meaningful to them.

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

This is the best way forward, allowing faith groups to choose whether or not to solemnise marriages in the way that accords with their convictions, regardless of what those convictions are.

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

In support

As long as each couple has the option to choose whether or not to turn their civil partnership to a marriage, I am fully in support of this option.
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

I find this confusing, as surely the point of a civil partnership is that it is civil - i.e. non-religious?

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

This is way past due.

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

Those people are entitled to their concerns, but what on earth do they need 'protecting' from? Marriage is a private matter that does not impact upon other people at all, except perhaps for making society less dangerous for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, including those who are not married.

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

Freedom of speech should be protected, unless it is hate speech, which a lot of the rhetoric against same sex marriage amounts to.

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

Are you responding as...

an academic
a celebrant
a private individual

Elinor Predota
23 August 2013