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

In opposition

The Bill is unnecessary and a distraction from matters which are of importance to the general population such as the economy and health. All the legal rights of marriage are already available to same-sex couples through civil partnerships.

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

In opposition

Although the Bill provides a basis for categorising same-sex relationships as marriage, it actually fails to draw same-sex relationships into the same substantive legal framework as marriage. If the commitment obligations are different then the relationship is different and must logically be categorised differently.

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

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)?

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

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?

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

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

The Abortion Act 1967 allows doctors and other health professionals to have an opt-out if they have a conscientious objection to participating in abortions. The same principle should apply to registrars who do not wish to conduct same-sex marriages. Similarly atheist teachers are not required to lead school assemblies or teach religious education. It is unclear why space for conscientious objection is not given to teachers who, because of issues of conscience based on religious belief, do not feel able to promote same-sex marriage.

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?

Parents should have a right (protected in law) to remove their children from lessons where same-sex marriage is being taught. They also should have a legal right to be informed in advance of when such lessons are going to occur.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Susan Preston
18 August 2013