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

One small change I find necessary: the wording "accept each other in marriage" should be available for mixed-sex marriages as well as same-sex, rather than requiring specifically "husband and wife".

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

In general I support providing for both marriage ceremonies and simple conversions. However, the current provisions do leave some people out, that is people who have registered a civil partnership outside of Scotland and live here now: it is important that these people too are allowed to have a marriage ceremony, because otherwise they will have to remain with a civil partnership or go through the painful process of dissolving it just to get married.

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

Very strongly support - this is extremely important!! However it seems a little backwards that the spouse must agree with the new gender recognition, after all it is not their gender - it makes much more sense that the spouse's agreement should be required for the marriage certificate re-issuing, while the trans* person is entirely responsible for their own gender.

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

No civil opt-outs, please!

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

School teachers should not be allowed to "opt out" from mentioning same-sex marriage, it is part of life and their duty to educate students that it is an option, whatever their personal views on it.

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

There are still some obstacles to gender recognition for trans* people that I would like to see addressed better - firstly the age of gender recognition should be lowered from 18 because this will allow trans* people to launch their adult life as their correct gender and thereby help protect them from discrimination and involuntary outing, and secondly the medical evidence requirements paradoxically make it more difficult for people who have been living as their preferred gender for a long time to have this legally recognised, so there should be an alternate route to recognition recognising the situation of these people.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

C Richter
14 August 2013