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

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?

Not allowing couples of the same-sex to get married only increases the stress that minority groups face in society. Minority stress has been linked to depression, anxiety disorders, excessive drinking, drug taking, self-harm and violence.
Acceptance and recognition by law and by society can only relieve the symptoms of minority stress as same sex couples can enjoy the freedom and rights that heterosexual couples enjoy. Voting for equal marriage rights is a vote for humanity and compassion, voting against it is a vote to hate and ignorance.

**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?**

The health of minority groups is not included. An inclusion of the high risks of suicide attempts, self-harm and depression rates that LGBT people have, which is associated with the exclusion LGBT people suffer in society through the common practices of a heterosexual world, may change the minds of people who do not understand the challenges of being LGBT.

**Are you responding as...**

an academic

Lynsey Semple
22 August 2013