MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM WILLIAM SHIRKIE

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

In support

This bill gives all couples regardless of sexual orientation the right to a state marriage and where appropriate and when the religious organisation wishes to do so conduct ceremonies for the couples they wish to wed. Currently under Civil Partnerships same sex couples have no right to a religious ceremony, they are banned. In my view anyone should be able to have a religious ceremony for their wedding as long as the religious body is willing to do so. This means that all couples in law have the right to practice their religion or faith to the full of their extent if their faith wishes to conduct same sex marriages. Their should be no boundary in law by faith, gender and sexual orientation.

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

In support

I support same sex marriage as I believe this bring a more just, fair and equal Scotland where people in this country regardless or faith, gender or sexual orientation have the same rights within law.

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

In support

Religion is a belief in something such as God or in others many God's. If someone has another belief then this could also be argued to be similar to religion.

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

As long as a religious body opts-in to preform same sex marriages then I am in support of this. This will give everyone a religious right to get married but also protect religions that wish not to preform them.

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

This gives all couples regardless of sexual orientation to have a wedding that they can truly call personal.

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

Neither

Civil partnerships should be changed to civil marriages and if any person wishes to have a religious ceremony they can do this with the consent of the church or religious organisation.

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?

People and religious organisations should be allowed their freedom of speech in support or opposition. This Bill would allow people of same sex to have the choice to have a religious ceremony like their heterosexual counterparts.

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

Many people refer to this as re-defining marriage. I would disagree as many cultures, religions and faiths have different definitions on marriage. The Government and Parliament's job should be to ensure that people can marry regardless of sexual orientation in a civil marriage and allow this further to religious organisations if the wish to do so.

Are you responding as...

a private individual

William Shirkie
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