How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?
In support
I support this bill as a logical step forward to equality for all.

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 the introduction of same-sex marriage as it makes no logical sense to have separate institutions for couples who wish to make a lifetime commitment based solely on the sex of the partners in the relationship.

How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?
In support
If by this you mean in the way that humanists can conduct legally-recognised marriages, then I think this is a positive thing.

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
It seems a reasonable balance has been struck in the bill to protect the right of religious organisations who do not wish to solemnise same sex marriages.

How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?
In support
I see no reason to object to a couple changing their civil partnership to a marriage, if they wish to do so.

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
As with the previous question I have no strong view on this, but it seems like a reasonable proposal which would probably be welcomed by many couples.
How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

Neither

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?

I support this in principle, as it would be unfortunate if a couple in which one person had transitioned or was transitioning had to divorce despite wanting to stay together. I disagree however with the requirement in the bill for the spouse of a transgender person to give consent before they can obtain gender recognition. This seems something that might prove an unnecessary obstacle to the transgender person.

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

I think the bill strikes the correct balance as proposed between protection of the rights of those who wish to have a same sex marriage and those individuals and organisations who oppose it.

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?

Are you responding as...

Laurel Stevens
15 August 2013