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

Every marriage should be equal, the idea that some marriages are somehow superior because they are part of a religion is blatantly discriminatory.

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

Spousal consent should not be required for the granting of gender recognition, but should instead be required for the subsequent re-registration of the marriage and the issue of a new marriage certificate. As at present, the non-trans spouse would
continue to be able to obtain a divorce in such circumstances, if they wished to end the marriage. The bill is also currently missing a provision that was added to the corresponding English legislation, allowing a person to obtain gender recognition with simpler evidence requirements if they have been transitioned for at least six years. When a person has been transitioned for a long time, it can be very difficult indeed to obtain all the medical evidence that is required from people who have only been transitioned two years. The doctors involved may have retired or even died. We therefore believe that a provision for simpler medical evidence for long-term transitioned people should be added to the bill “this would assist the Gender Recognition Panel as well as applicants. The minimum age for applying for gender recognition should also brought into line with the minimum age for marrying in Scotland, that is, 16.

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

The protections are more than adequate.

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

Freedom of speech is already adequately protected in law.

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

Are you responding as...

a private individual

Margaret Tombs
18 August 2013