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

In support

UNISON agrees that the proposed legislation will improve sexual orientation and gender identity equality. It will also protect and extend freedom of religion and belief by giving religious and belief groups the right to decide for themselves whether or not to solemnise same-sex marriages.

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 opposition

UNISON agrees with the proposal to establish belief ceremonies as a third type of ceremony, alongside religious and civil ceremonies, for getting married in Scotland. The Humanist Society Scotland already carries out more marriages than any religious group.

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

UNISON agrees with the proposals for authorising religious and belief celebrants who wish to solemnise same-sex marriage. Specifically, we agree with allowing same-sex marriage in civil, religious and belief ceremonies. We agree that religious and belief bodies

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

Neither

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
UNISON agrees with the government that less regulation is needed regarding where civil marriages and civil partnership ceremonies can take place. We therefore agree with the proposal to allow civil marriage and civil partnership ceremonies to take place a

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

In opposition

UNISON agrees with the proposed approach to ensuring that religious and belief bodies and celebrants do not have to register civil partnerships.

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 opposition

UNISON agrees with the Scottish Government’s aim of revising the gender recognition process so that people who are married or in a civil partnership can obtain gender recognition without having to divorce or dissolve their civil partnership if they and th

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

UNISON believes in freedom of speech and broadly agrees with the proposed approach. We agree with the guarantee in section 12 of the bill which makes clear that nothing in the part of the bill that introduces same-sex marriage affects a person’s rights to freedom of religion or freedom of speech. We believe that, through these measures, the legislation will provide equality in marriage law and will effectively protect and extend freedom of religion and speech.

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

9: UNISON believes in freedom of speech and broadly agrees with the proposed approach. We agree with the guarantee in section 12 of the bill which makes clear that nothing in the part of the bill that introduces same-sex marriage affects a person’s rights

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

Are you responding as...

another representative body
Trade Union

Eileen Dinning
UNISON
21 August 2013