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

In support

We support the introduction of equal marriage throughout Scotland and believe that the equal recognition of same sex partnerships is an essential facet for a fairer and more just Scotland.

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

In support

Popular myth has it that, at St Andrews, a student is more likely to find the love of their life during their time here than at any other UK university. Whether that myth is true or not, the students at St Andrews firmly believe that love, whether between a man and a woman or between two people of the same gender, should be celebrated.

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

In support

We support the establishment of equal footing for belief celebrants and religious celebrants, as individuals should be able to fully express their belief or their faith in the form most appropriate for them. This change allows for the advancement of this ideal without any sacrifice to the quality of marriage.

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)?

Neither

Of particular note, we are discouraged by the Scottish government’s current proposal to defer solely to religious bodies on the recognition of a celebrant’s legal authority to solemnise a marriage. We hope that, in any and all instances where a same sex couple and a minister, clergyman, pastor, priest, or other celebrant of a religious or belief body all collectively ascent to the solemnisation of a marriage within their religion or belief, the Scottish government will use its authority for temporary authorisation under section 12 to provide for all couples within Scotland to be able to solemnise their marriage with the consenting relevant religious or belief celebrant to them. The Scottish government cannot rest on the assertion that this proposed policy would avoid interference with religious doctrine. The proposed policy instead provides a tacit consent to a religious body to impose a contented perspective to its other celebrants. Where the government has gone through extraordinary lengths to affirm a right for religious and belief celebrants to
not be compelled to solemnise a marriage against their religion or belief, we hope that the government will similarly apply generous provisions to those that wish to.

**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

We agree in the expansion of possibilities for a couple entering a civil marriage to be able to celebrate their love and register themselves at a designated place of importance to them.

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

In support

We see no reason to deny this opportunity to individuals who wish to enter into a civil partnership but also wish to hold a religious or belief ceremony to celebrate their partnership.

**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

We fully support this provision to ensure the rights of transgendered persons to retain their marriage rights regardless of their point in the process of transitioning their gender.

**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?**

We are encouraged by the endorsement of the rights and freedoms of individuals advanced by this proposed legislation. We do hope, however, that specific note is taken to affirm that the doctrine of the freedom of speech should never be allowed to supersede the progress towards equal and fair treatment for all of Scotland’s people and that the freedom of speech is not a carte-blanche for an opportunity to discriminate, particularly for those in position of civil authority.
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

Teddy Woodhouse  
University of St Andrews Students' Association  
21 August 2013