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

In support

Equality is equality - rights for one human are rights for another. If this bill moves us towards realising that, it absolutely must go forward in spite of those who believe not all humans deserve the same rights.

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'm in support of it, even if I don't expect to ever take advantage of it. To clarify: I'm gay, but even if this bill passes I will probably never marry in the contemporary understanding of the ceremony as, even if I wanted to make a statement of commitment to a partner, ‘marriage’ is tied up in religion, which I've long since left behind me. Opponents to the bill use this against the cause - they claim the change is unnecessary as very few people want it - but the reality is that as things currently stand, I'm not even allowed to make that choice. I want to be able to choose not to get married the same way thousands of straight couples choose not to get married: by choice, not by law. And ultimately, being able to make this choice will merely be a happy side product of something much more worthwhile - that those who are gay and religious will be able to make that statement of commitment in the first place.

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

In support

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 opposition

As stated earlier in the questionnaire, I believe marriage is more tied to religion than a civil partnership is, and if I were in a civil partnership I'd not want it to suddenly flip into being a marriage. Again, I'd like the ability to choose for myself whether that happened or not, which would require the option to be available to me, but not for it to be mandatory. Civil partnerships and marriages should be able to exist alongside each other, providing equal rights, rather than in opposition - in action they might be
identical but ideologically they are very different statements of commitment, which I could see being very important to people.

**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

Because c'mon, beach weddings are just the best thing.

**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?**

In support

A gender change shouldn't nullify a marriage because, quite simply, you marry a person, not their genitals.

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

I don't understand what they think they need to be protected from, I only know they think that two people confirming their love and happiness together with friends and family in a ceremony that has demonstrated a remarkable flexibility with regards to its definition both legally and religiously over the course of thousands of years without yet falling apart is something they're not on board with. Perhaps they should be protected from history, as they're standing in its way and it isn't going to stop for them.

**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...**

a private individual

Ryan Vance
21 August 2013