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

In support

Giving gay couples the option to celebrate their relationship like equals in society is very important. Homosexuals getting married will not affect the rest of the country in a negative way, just as straight couples getting married does not affect the homosexuals in the country either. In a world which is striving for equality right now, whether it be wiping out racism, sexism etc, seems archaic or contradictory by depriving the homosexual community the opportunity to celebrate their relationship the same way as heterosexuals are able to.

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

In support

This is a topic very close to my heart. I am not personally in the mind-set of getting married in the next couple of years but I do hope that when I find someone I wish to spend the rest of my life with I shall be able to celebrate my love for him in a wedding ceremony with my friends and family there. If equality is to be celebrated then marriage equality needs to be put in place too.

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

In support

I believe religious celebrations or non-religious celebrations should be allowed so long as the church is comfortable with it. I don't believe anyone should be forced to do something they're not comfortable with, but some homosexuals are religious so should be offered the chance to get married in their place of worship.

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?

Neither

I believe both should be available for everyone. Some people don't want to be married and would rather be in a civil partnership. I believe the choice should be available for everyone.
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

I think this is very important, if someone chooses to go through gender changes and their partner is supporting of them and their choice then I do not see why they should be forced to end their marriage to then start another.

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

Same sex marriage will affect those of the same sex getting married. It will allow loving couples who haven't been able to celebrate their love for each other in the same way to have the best day of their lives. Couples showing their love and being happy should not affect the other members of the country who have a problem with their relationship.

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

Oliver Watson
14 August 2013