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

In support

Overall I think the Bill is good news, however it doesn't provide the option for heterosexual couples to have a civil partnership. Marriage, as a social, legal and religious institution, has connotations that some people in society are not comfortable with i.e the traditional rights, obligations and roles in marriage. Therefore I strongly believe that there should be an option for heterosexual couples to have a civil partnership.

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 think that in a modern progressive country it is only fair and reasonable that we regard all committed relationships between two people as equal and therefore they should have the same recognition by the state.

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

In support

I think it is absolutely essential that in a progressive country belief celebrants have the same status as religious celebrants. A poll carried out for the Humanist Society Scotland on 18/1/11 should that when asked the Scottish census question, ‘What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?’. In response, 42% of the adult population in Scotland said ‘None’. Therefore I believe that the time is right to end religious privilege in Scotland and give full equality to those who wish to officiate ceremonies for citizens that are non religious.

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

Yes I think this is clear and fair to everyone.

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

In support
Yes I think sex same couples should be able to change their civil partnership into a marriage. However I also believe that heterosexual couples should be given the opportunity to have civil partnerships and be able to change their marriage into a civil partnership.

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

I agree with these proposals entirely. I think that couples should be allowed the chance to have their marriage recognised at a place which they may hold in special regard or have an affinity with.

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

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

I agree that religious bodies who oppose same sex marriage should not be forced to conduct them and should be given exemption. Moreover I do not think registrars working for local authorities should receive the same protection has religious bodies since they are carrying out a duty in a paid capacity on behalf of a local authority and therefore should not be able to discriminate against people because of their own personal beliefs.

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

Conor Watt
22 August 2013