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

In support

By now we realise that punishing gay people for being gay has not turned us into heterosexuals, nor it ever will.

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

In support

Not only does it remove the last vestige of discrimination in social status and financial terms, it has implications for children being raised by adoptive or blood parents to know their parents are legally married. There is no more reason to put the stamp of unworthiness upon such children than there ever was to stigmatise children born out of wedlock as "illegitimate".

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

In support

Civil Marriage is a secular matter, but if religions or other beliefs want to perform same sex marriages, then so long as the happy couple sign the government's register, it's perfectly reasonable to give their commitment equal status.

How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including opt-in procedures)?

In support

They should not be treated with less dignity or respect just because they are a same sex couple.

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

In support

If they want it, let them do it. I think there should be a resolemnisation however, as they are different.

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

If two people love each other enough to want to swear mutual fidelity in front of a crowd of friends and family, I see no reason to stand in their way.

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

In support

Same as last answer, if they want to swear mutual fidelity before witnesses, I see no reason to deny them that.

**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

Since the gender will become irrelevant after the bill passes, then this question no long has relevance.

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

None of this affects them, unless it is part of their job to conduct such ceremonies. Then I favour redeploying them elsewhere in the same organisation, certainly not dismissal, which would be unfair and provocative.

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

Aside from obvious legal curtailments like Defamation, Perjury, Fraud, Vilification, Incitement to Crime etc, I believe that people should be able to speak their mind freely on both sides (or more) of the issue."The truth will out".

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

I applaud Scotland in general and the SNP in particular for this important and final visionary step to bring to an end the centuries old persecution of homosexuals.

**Are you responding as...**

an academic
a private individual

Derek Williams
14 August 2013