

MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL
SUBMISSION FROM QUAKERS IN SCOTLAND

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

In support

We warmly welcome the Bill as we are strong supporters of both equality and religious freedom.

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

In support

We have been celebrating same sex partnerships in the context of our religious worship for many years and welcome the possibility that we shall be able to register and celebrate them as marriages, giving such couples complete equality with heterosexual couples.

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

In support

We are fully accepting of the right to equality of those communities which do not recognise their basis of belief to be 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

We seek a permissive law as we fully recognise that those who do not take our stance should not be put in a difficult position. The proposal that those wishing to take advantage of the right to conduct same sex marriages should opt into such an arrangement would seem to be the best option to ensure the rights of all.

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

In support

We hope couples will be offered this possibility.

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 see no clearcut distinction between sacred and secular.

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

In support

If other-sex or same-sex couples prefer civil partnership to marriage, we hope they will be allowed the freedom to have their partnerships registered as such.

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?

It is central to our views on religious freedom, as a people who in the past have been persecuted for our faith, that full protection is ensured for those who feel their religious or belief stances are threatened by the proposed legislation.

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 faith/belief-based organisation

Phil Lucas
Quakers in Scotland
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