

MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ANDREW ALLAN

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

In support

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

In support

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

In support

I believe Equality for LGBT people will only be successful for future generations if they can have the choice to be married in the same ceremonies as heterosexual couples, whether these ceremonies be civil, religious or other faith groups.

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

I believe allowing celebrants to opt-in allows the different faiths to retain their beliefs without forcing them and so if they opt-in the procedures will be in place to allow this.

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

In support

I think it would make civil partnerships stronger to know that it has stepped up to a more equal footing with heterosexuals.

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

It seems fair to have marriages anywhere.

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

In opposition

I can understand having to adjust the fine print on civil partnerships however I believe firmly that the anti-gay marriage campaigners have used the idea of allowing heterosexual couples to opt for civil partnership as a means of setting back the campaign for Equal Marriage for all. To make changes to Civil Partnership may be a misdirected energy that should be going towards the Equality Campaign.

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

If couples are happy to stay married when one person changes gender then I see no reason to oppose that loving relationship to continue.

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

I think the concerns boil down to long seated prejudice and so the concerns, some of which will be heart felt, must be looked upon objectively and not be allowed to be clouded by intolerance and fear of difference.

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

Growing up in a small town, being gay was to be on the outside. Through time I have seen many changes in attitude amongst people which could be down simply to more positive portrayals of gay characters in film, television and in theatre. On Freedom of speech I would say only that, as long as protests are peaceful then, people should be allowed to speak their mind. Regarding a recent protest by the Anti-Gay Marriage Campaign in my own home town, I was disturbed however as there is a fine line between freedom of speech and a campaign of hatred and prejudice. Although it was an orderly and peaceful protest, I felt uncomfortable seeing this happen where I live.

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

Andrew Allan
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