CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The registration of civil partnerships

Question 1  (Paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13)

Do you agree that legislation should be changed so that civil partnerships could be registered through religious ceremonies?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Civil partnerships are only legal contracts (according to the UK Government at the time they were introduced). To allow it would be to renge on assurances given that churches could be offered up to threats of legal action. Over time, it is most likely that powerful pressure groups would enforce the removal of a "conscience clause".

Question 2  (Paragraphs 2.14 to 2.19)

Do you think that the proposals in England and Wales on registration of civil partnerships in religious premises would be appropriate for Scotland?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you have answered no, please explain what elements of the proposals in England and Wales you consider inappropriate for Scotland.
Question 3  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)

Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in religious premises?

- Yes
- [X] No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments:

Civil partnerships were supposed to be wholly secular in nature.

Question 4  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)

Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in other places agreed between the celebrant and the couple?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer
Comments

Question 5  (Paragraph 2.25)

Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to register civil partnerships?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

The state should have no such role. We were elected to govern civic affairs and not to interfere and encroach on religious issues.

Question 6  (Paragraphs 2.26 and 2.27)

Do you consider that religious celebrants should not be allowed to register civil partnerships if their religious body has decided against registering civil partnerships?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer
Comments
*It would undermine the authority and discipline of these religious bodies.*

Question 7 (Paragraphs 2.28 to 2.30)

Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to register civil partnerships?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Question 8 (Paragraphs 2.31 to 2.35)

Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to register civil partnerships against their will?

Do you favour:

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Neither
Religious bodies may not wish their premises to be used to register civil partnerships. Do you agree that no legislative provision is required to ensure religious premises cannot be used against the wishes of the relevant religious body?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Could cause division and confusion.
Same sex marriage

Question 10 (Paragraphs 3.11 and 3.12)
Do you agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to allow same sex marriage?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
Marriage is not in itself a specifically religious institution. Marriage has been recognised since the outset of civilization as between one man and one woman.

Question 11 (Paragraph 3.13)
Do you agree that religious bodies and celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer
Comments

It would be wrong for the state to enforce someone to do something against their conscience.

Question 12  (Paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18)

Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex civil marriage only?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

While only civil—yet no natural children can come from such "marriages."

Question 13  (Paragraph 3.19)

Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex marriage, both religious and civil?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer
Comments

One purpose of marriage is to raise children.

Question 14 (Paragraphs 3.23 and 3.24)

Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Wrong for the State to enforce someone to do something against their conscience — especially when the States role is Civil Affairs.

Question 15 (Paragraphs 3.25 and 3.26)

Do you consider that religious celebrants should not be allowed to solemnise same sex marriages if their religious body has decided against solemnising same sex marriage?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
Question 16 (Paragraphs 3.27 and 3.28)

Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Otherwise, it would create tension between secular and Christian bodies.

Question 17 (Paragraphs 3.29 to 3.33)

Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to solemnise same sex marriage against their will?

Do you favour:
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Neither
- Don't know
Question 18 (Paragraphs 3.34 to 3.39)

Religious bodies may not wish their premises to be used to solemnise same-sex marriage. Do you agree that no legislative provision is required to ensure religious premises cannot be used against the wishes of the relevant religious body?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Otherwise could lead to unnecessary diversion.

Question 19 (Paragraph 3.41)

If Scotland should introduce same-sex marriage, do you consider that civil partnerships should remain available?

- Yes
Don't know.

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Will help to distinguish between marriage and civil partnerships.

Question 20 (Paragraph 4.19)

Do you have any other comments?

Yes

We are particularly interested in your views on:

• potential implications of the proposals for transgender people (paragraph 3.42)
• possible transitional arrangements (paragraphs 3.43 and 3.44);
• recognition of Scottish same sex marriages elsewhere (paragraphs 3.45 to 3.49);
• any comments on forced marriage (paragraphs 3.51 and 3.52)
• any comments on sham marriage (paragraph 3.53)
• potential financial implications (paragraphs 4.01 to 4.08);
• potential equality implications (paragraphs 4.09 to 4.14).
Comments

MSPs were elected to rule over our civil affairs, not to rule our consciences and certainly not to redefine "Marriage" or contradict the centuries old religion of Scotland - Christianity!

Scotland was founded on Christian principles and a Scottish Government should be unashamedly supporting Christianity as our Nation has benefitted so much from it in the past.