Consultation Questions
Registration of civil partnership | Same sex marriage: a consultation

Question 1: Do you agree that legislation should be changed so that civil partnerships could be registered through religious ceremonies?

No, Civil partnership was brought in to tackle non-religious issues regarding same-sex partnerships. A religious ceremony would give no further civil rights, so is at best unnecessary. In fact, due to the likely consequences of an eventual legal requirement of religious celebrants to administer registration if so requested by same-sex applicants demanding their "right to non-discrimination", any proposed legislation to "liberalise" or "universalise" religious ceremonies to allow registration of civil partnerships through such ceremonies would lead to a reduction of religious liberty for those unable in all
conscience to administer such ceremonies. Government statements of current intention to the contrary cannot be considered binding interpretations of law in the future. Civil partnership can never equal marriage. Equal rights has become confused with equivalent rites! As a minister of the Gospel myself, I can never equate marriage with a civil partnership which I see only as a secular arrangement brought in by an increasingly secularised society.

**Question 2: Do you think that the proposals in England and Wales on registration of civil partnerships in religious premises would be appropriate for Scotland?**

Don't Know,

**Question 3: Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in religious premises?**

No, This proposal may preserve the distinction between a civil and a religious ceremony, but it only confuses the distinction between a civil partnership and marriage by bestowing a religious blessing on a secular partnership that can never equate to marriage yet is sought in order to be perceived as such.

**Question 4: Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in other places agreed between the celebrant and the couple?**

No, As above.

**Question 5: Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to register civil partnerships?**

Yes, The State should not decree what religious bodies are required to do in the exercise of their religion.

**Question 6: 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, As a minister of the Church of Scotland I took a vow to obey the rulings of my church. Discipline is essential in society as it is in the family of the Church and in individual family life for the harmony and health of the whole body.

**Question 7: Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to register civil partnerships?**

Yes, Ministers of religion have as much right to be guided by their conscience and not be discriminated against as anybody else.

**Question 8: Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to register civil partnerships against their will?**

Option 2, This is the better of the two options. But the clause "it would not be discriminatory to decide against seeking approval to register civil partnerships" suggests there might be such a danger of this happening. This is confirmed by the later admission, "the Scottish Government will have regard to the European Convention on Human Rights" which latter Convention has proved to be a two-edged sword that can be invoked by those demanding
all sorts of rights never intended by the authors of the Convention.

**Question 9: 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?**

No, If religious celebrants can be authorised to register civil partnerships, some-one will soon demand their "right" to have their civil partnership registered in a religious premise that does not cater for such registrations and if they are refused will plead that they are being discriminated against.

**Question 10: Do you agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to allow same sex marriage?**

No, Anecdotal evidence of stable monogamous relationships does not stack up against scientific statistics. TV dramas often utopian in their portrayal of homosexuals ‘behaving’ like average heterosexuals. Studies in the States have shown that same-sex relationships are notoriously short-lived (8% lasting four years or more) and often then in an "open" relationship. (See MT Saghir and E Robins, Male and Female Homosexuality: A Comprehensive Investigation). This does not encourage a belief that any same-sex "marriage" would provide a stable and committed environment for children brought up in such a "family". Marriage is not simply a way of two people expressing their love for, and commitment to, each other. It is primarily for the establishment of a family made up of a complementary couple who can model a father and a mother to the children brought up and prepared within its fold to make their contribution to society. That not every family can have children no more invalidates this role than the fact that not every one gets married. Once same-sex marriage is legalised, schools will inevitably have to teach that homosexuality is normal, a view that is totally unacceptable to those of us who stand by the clear teaching of Scripture. This proposal in effect redefines "marriage". However, no law can change reality. But redefining it in law can change the way people think about marriage, family and relationships. It can breed individualism (each has his own rights) rather than altruism (caring for the needs of others, including the sexual "others", only learnt through complementary parenting). Law can also bring heartbreak in so far as it can encourage formal relationships that soon break up and in some cases involve suicide. (This of course can apply to heterosexual marriages, but the incidents are far more frequent in same-sex relationships. Laws can also become coercive
and result in registrars and clergy being taken to court for not complying with requests for same sex marriages to be registered or celebrated. A further problem is the creep that can be expected as soon as same-sex marriage is legalised. Polygamy has been touted in a Canadian court. Incest might be next. Pedastry will have its claimants also.

| Question 11: Do you agree that religious bodies and celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage? | Yes, Same as for civil partnerships. Same-sex "marriage" is no marriage at all in reality. |
| Question 12: Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex civil marriage only? | Don't Know, |
| Question 13: Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex marriage, both religious and civil? | No, For all the reasons given in No 10. Redefinition of "marriage" will only confuse and eventually weaken society. |
| Question 14: Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage? | Yes, As for civil partnership. |
| Question 15: 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, As for civil partnership. |
| Question 16: Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage? | Yes, As for civil partnership. |
| Question 17: 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? | Option 2, As for civil partnership. |
| Question 18: 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? | No, As for civil partnership. |
| Question 19: If Scotland should introduce same-sex marriage, do you consider that civil partnerships should remain available? | Don't Know, |
| Question 20: Do you have any other | Yes, We are concerned that a small minority of homosexuals are seeking same-sex marriage when the total homosexual community is only 3% of the total population, and the track-record for long-term relationships in the homosexual community is extremely poor. This does not |
Traditionist parents will be put under great pressure to conform to political correctness by this proposed legislation as schools conform to an acceptance of homosexual lifestyle as normal.

Comments?