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 by their very name are civil, i.e. secular, non-religious. They therefore would not 'fit' in a religious context. To change legislation to allow this would put pressure on faith groups to change their teaching and practice on same-sex relationships. The uptake of such a change would be small and it seems disproportionate to change the law for a small minority.

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.

Comments

There should be as much 'distance' between a civil ceremony and a religious one as possible. Religious premises should be allowed to celebrate religious ceremonies. There are many venues that would be appropriate for both types of ceremonies but which are not religious.
Question 3  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)
Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in religious premises?
Yes  
No  [☑]  
Don't know  
Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
This adds to the confusion between ceremonies and increases pressure to view civil partnerships as marriages. They need to be kept separate.

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
As above, it confuses matters and makes something civil and secular look like marriage.
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
This is surely a matter for religious bodies themselves to decide and not a case for legislation.

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
This could lead to tension within the structures of religious bodies and increase pressure on individuals to lose conscience to conduct civil ceremonies.
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

This is a matter for individuals within religious institutions to decide and no one should be required to act against their personal beliefs.

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 ☐

If you have another option, please describe it.

Comments
Question 9  (Paragraphs 2.36 to 2.40)

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
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

A MARRIAGE BETWEEN A SAME SEX COUPLE CANNOT
BE A MARRIAGE. IT IS NOT THE PLACE FOR THE STATE
THROUGH LEGISLATION TO ALTER THE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE
TO SUIT A SMALL MINORITY.

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
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
AS ABOVE - SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS CANNOT BE MARRIAGES
NO MATTER IF THEY ARE RELIGIOUS OR CIVIL.

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
SEE ABOVE.
Question 14 (Paragraphs 3.23 and 3.24)
Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Yes</th>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Don't know</td>
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Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Such decisions lie with individuals within religious bodies alone and not be a requirement of the state.

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?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Yes</th>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Don't know</td>
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Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
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

There must be freedom of conscience in such matters.

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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  

Please give reasons for your answer and if you have another option, please describe it.

Comments
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

Question 19 (Paragraph 3.41)

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

Yes □
No √
Don't know □

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

IT MAINTAINS A CLERICAL DISTINCTION AND GIVES SCOPRE FOR SOME SEX COUPLES WHO DO NOT WISH TO GET MARRIED!
Question 20  (Paragraph 4.19)

Do you have any other comments?

Yes

No

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).