## 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?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please give reasons for your answer.

### Comments

This option if introduced would only add a layer of confusion in people's mind and make the administration much more complex. Civil partnerships should remain civil not religious.

### 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?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have answered no, please explain what elements of the proposals in England and Wales you consider inappropriate for Scotland.

### Comments

As I have not read the proposed regulations for England and Wales, I am unable to comment on this question.
Question 3  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)

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

Yes  
No  [X]  
Don't know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

As per my comments in Question 1

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  [X]  
Don't know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

As per my comments in Question 1
Question 5  (Paragraph 2.25)

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

Yes [X]  
No [ ]  
Don’t know [ ]  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

As per my comments in Question 1

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 [X]  
No [ ]  
Don’t know [ ]  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

As per my comments in Question 1
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   [X] 
Don’t know  [  ]

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

As per my comments in Question 1

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   [X] 
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

The law in Scotland should be changed to allow same-sex marriages. This will ensure equality for all members of Scottish society regardless of their gender, sexual orientation or a transgendered person in the matters of marriage.

This change in the law would also end the destructive insistence that transgendered married couples have to get divorced to allow the transitioned person to receive their legal gender recognition certificate, and retain their accrued benefits as a married couple and not have the clock reset to zero when they are forced into a civil partnership.

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

All religious bodies should be required to solemnise same sex marriages as they currently do for heterosexual marriages. Religious celebrants should
be allowed an opt out to whether or not they carry out the solemnising for the same sex marriages as they currently are able to do for heterosexual marriages at present.

Religious bodies are currently subject to laws governing marriage, therefore there should be no opt-out for same sex marriages.

Question 12 (Paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18)

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

Yes
No [x]
Don’t know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

There should be the option for same sex couple if they so desire to have a religious ceremony and have their union solemnised.

Question 13 (Paragraph 3.19)

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

Yes [x]
No
Don’t know
Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

It should be the choice of couple whether or not they carry out a religious or civil marriage much the same as happens at present for heterosexual couples.

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 [X]
Don’t know [ ]

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

As per my comments in Question 11

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 [ ]
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
As per my comments in Question 15

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**

The Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977, should be amended to include same sex marriages as well as heterosexual marriages. This would negate the need to amend the Equalities Act 2010, and would lead to a speedier introduction of the necessary changes to ensure same sex marriages take place.

---

**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**

There are other premises that can be used for religious ceremonies should the religious body concerns has such strong feelings.
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

Civil partnerships should be opened up to all hetero or same sex members of society, to allow the people who wish to gain the responsibilities and rights but do not wish enter marriage. Thereby giving equality and choice to everyone.

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).

Comments

For married transgendered people the current situation is untenable, as we
are caught in a legal limbo, either divorce to receive the legal gender recognition we desire and therefore enter a lesser civil partnership in terms of financial recompense to spouses and effectively resets the clock back to zero and all the benefits would have to be rebuilt. Not that easy if you have been married for 25 years. This situation is very destructive and has led to break up of marriages and will continue to do so. All this when we are being encouraged to marry and provide a stable household for children, by both Government and Religious bodies, then to force people, for the sake of a word marriage, to divorce, does seem perverse just so they can live their lives as they want to in the right body and legally recognised.

I contend that why should I divorce my wife of 25 years, when she has stood by me during my transition and subsequent life changing operation for the last 13 years, to fulfil and out dated view of marriage, to ensure I can live my life legally recognised as the woman I am?