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

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

32
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

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
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

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
Question 7 (Paragraphs 2.28 to 2.30)

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

Yes [x]  
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 [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 [X]
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

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

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

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

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

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

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

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
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).
FALKIRK and DISTRICT EVANGELICAL LEADERS’ FORUM

November 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

The Registration of civil partnerships and same sex marriage

At recent meetings of the Falkirk and District Evangelical Leaders’ Forum it was agreed to make a response to the Consultation on the above topic. The Forum is representative of more than fifteen congregations and Church groups in the Falkirk area and I write as its correspondent.

The enclosed Respondent Information Form indicates our position in that we do not approve of same sex marriage, and may have differing views on civil partnerships, given that we have a small percentage of gay and lesbian individuals in the population.

The members of this Forum are committed to the belief that marriage is meant for one man and one woman to live together in the covenanted bond of marriage, and that all sexual relations outside marriage, in whatever form, heterosexual or homosexual, are contrary to God’s design for men and women, and for society as a whole. This has also been the historical clear teaching of orthodox Christianity since its beginnings.

But we also believe that redefining marriage is not a simple matter of changing the law, and that it is not the prerogative of politicians, or Parliament, to alter the fundamental norms of humanity. Even from a non-Christian point of view, no one has the right or authority to change what is the natural order of creation.

The concession of government to accommodate those who wish to engage in same sex relationships, by providing civil partnerships, is a way which allows such couples to declare their commitment to each other. Marriage is of a different order completely, since it is impossible for same sex partnerships to procreate children. Marriage is the rightful place for this to take place. Marriage, therefore, as such, cannot accommodate same sex commitments.

Furthermore, we believe that by redefining marriage, the Government is encouraging the education of our children into an unhealthy and immoral perspective on life, and will cause even more suffering on our already damaged society. We do not desire a Scotland which boasts the title of leading the way in redefining marriage!

While Christian and religious groups are being castigated for deigning to ‘tell the rest of the population what is right’ - in other words, a minority dictating to the majority - we make the observation that it is a very vociferous and vocal minority which is pushing the concept of the redefinition of marriage on to the rest of society.

We trust that due consideration will be given to the total Consultation, despite reports that the matter is being pressured by the majority party in parliament. We call on all MSPs to consult more than one set of statistics to discover the mind of the population!