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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please give reasons for your answer.

Comments

Civil partnerships were introduced as civil legal contracts with no religious element. This is why they should remain. In Scotland civil ceremonies took place in civil register offices. By allowing civil partnerships to be registered with religious ceremonies the Scottish Government should only meet an emergency given by the UK Govt at the time that civil partnerships were introduced. This can open up a variety of legal action under the Equal Treatment Act.

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
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If you have answered no, please explain what elements of the proposals in England and Wales you consider inappropriate for Scotland.

Comments
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
Civil partnerships were established as being wholly secular in nature when they were introduced. They should remain so.
Religious beliefs are not dictated to by legislation. (Study Scottish history – particularly the period known as the “killing times”.)

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

To force religious bodies to conduct civil partnerships would be a gross violation of religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

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

Religious bodies adhere to their beliefs. These bodies have their own structure. Celebrants who no longer adhere to the religious body's beliefs are free to leave and join another group that they can identify with. The celebrant cannot dictate to the overall religious body.
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

The Scottish Gov't should not seek to impose a view on religious groups through the mechanism of civil law.

The principle of freedom of association would entail respect by civil authorities for the internal governance on matters of doctrine by religious bodies.

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
There should be a clause stating that religious premises can not be used against the will of the religious body.

Experience with GLP's legislation in the past highlights the need for specifics to be built into the legislation.
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 defined as being between a man and a woman for the purpose of raising children. This has been enshrined in human nature and culture from the outset of human history. No definitional distinction between religious and secular marriage. Once you want to redefine marriage, then what about other minorities? Bisexual, polyamorous relationships?

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 X
Don't know □

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

An amendment to the Equality Act 2010 has brought about this consultation and isn’t personal. We have no confidence that the Scottish Govt announce that no minuted or church will be forced to participate. This is a real possibility as equality law is reserved to Westminster.
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

We are shocked that such a question should be included in this consultation by the Scottish Government.

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
The question assumes same-sex marriage will be legalised. Does not say much for this consultation process!

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 question assumes same-sex marriage will be legalised. Does not say much for this consultation process!
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).

Comments

It has been estimated that such changes including other groups looking to change the law will cost £5bn.

What for? The proposal is solely about symbolism for a group that is estimated at 0.2% of same sex households and less than 500 civil partnerships per year.

In the meantime the euro zone is in disarray with major European banks on the brink of bankruptcy. Financial aid is in the wrong place.

Let me leave you with this quote from the greatest wisdom book ever written:

"There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not wicked from their youth."

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