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 partnership has no obligation for religious involvement and legislation is adequate to ensure civil rights.

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
The Scottish Parliament should resist pressures to extend, progressively its concessions to minority groups whose interests are contrary to the stability of Marriage and family life. The distinction between civil and religious ceremonies should be retained and the Civil Partnership should remain a matter of Civil law and practice.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 3</th>
<th>(Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in religious premises?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please give reasons for your answer

**Comments**
Neither the Church nor its ministers should be required to be involved in provisions which are directly contrary to Christian and Biblical principles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 4</th>
<th>(Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in other places agreed between the celebrant and the couple?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please give reasons for your answer

**Comments**
Civil partnership is essentially a Civil Law provision and has no legitimate reason to require the participation of religious celebrants.
**Question 5** (Paragraph 2.25)

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

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

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Civil partnership is essentially a Civil Law provision and has no legitimate reason to require the participation of religious celebrants.

**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?

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

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Such celebrants are, by the nature of their office, subject to the discipline of their Denomination or order.
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

No-one should be required to over-ride conscientious objection

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

Option 2 leaves the matter in the hands of the people required to make the decision and does not place unacceptable obligations upon them

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

There should be protection for Faith communities against the pressures to use consecrated buildings for ceremonies which may be inimical to the main purpose of the premises
**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  \(\times\)
- Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Marriage is by definition a union between one man and one woman. Neither the Scottish Parliament nor any other body can alter the realities of biology and make such a union between two people of the same sex.

**Marriage** “the formal union of a man and a woman, typically as recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife” (Oxford English Dictionary:)

---

Question 11  (Paragraph 3.13)

Do you agree that religious bodies and celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

- Yes  \(\times\)
- No  
- Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

This will usually be a matter of conscience and coercion of conscience is contrary to human rights
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 X

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

The term “same-sex civil marriage” is a contradiction in terms unless the Scottish Government takes upon itself the authority to totally alter the definition of marriage. We do not believe it has such authority.

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

Marriage is by definition, the formal union of a man and a woman, typically as recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife: (O.E.D.)
Neither the Scottish Parliament nor any other body can alter the realities of biology and make such a union between two people of the same sex.
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

No religious or other body should be required to take action contrary to the tenets of their faith.

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

Such celebrants are, by the nature of their office, subject to the discipline of their Denomination or order
### Question 16 (Paragraphs 3.27 and 3.28)

Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

<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></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please give reasons for your answer

**Comments**

No religious or other body, individual or corporate, should be required to take action contrary to the tenets of their faith.

### 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**

Option 2 leaves the matter in the hands of the people required to make the decision and does not place unacceptable obligations upon them. This would require the body concerned to decide whether this is an action which is in keeping its ethos.
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 X   Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Legislative provision would only be necessary if there were pressure to enforce the use of such premises and this seems contrary to natural justice as well as the law as it stands.

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 X

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

We do not believe that same sex marriage should be introduced for the reasons given above.

Civil partnerships are a matter of civil law. Same-sex marriage equates marriage with relationships which are of a completely different nature. The two concepts should remain separate.
Question 20 (Paragraph 4.19)

Do you have any other comments?

Yes  X
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

This whole matter completely blurs of the concept of marriage and such blurring can only undermine the stability of family life in a society in which this essential component of human life and happiness is already under threat.

It is no part of Government’s responsibility to interfere to this extent in the area of personal human relationships.

It is one thing to give civil rights to a minority group which has perceived itself to have been marginalised but it is quite another to attack the concept of marriage by equating it with something to which can never be equivalent. The effect is likely to be a further trivialising of marriage in our Society.

We should recognise that same sex marriage is indeed a “sham marriage” since it cannot fulfil the deepest elements of that relationship.

It should not matter what is being done elsewhere. If we perceive ourselves as being an autonomous people we should stand up for our rights and our traditions.

We have found this Consultation extremely confusing and difficult to answer by reason of the widespread use of double negatives in the questions asked.