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  X 
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  X 
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
### Question 3 (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Selection</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

### 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Selection</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
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

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
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 
Neither  X  

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** [X]
- **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

We urge with the greatest earnestness that the Government do not proceed with the proposed change to the traditionally accepted meaning of Marriage.

Marriage has been accepted for millennia by most human societies as being a life-long relationship between a man and a woman, entered into thoughtfully, after due consideration of the purposes for which it was ordered. We see these as: a) for the lifelong companionship, help and comfort which the couple give to each other; and b) for the procreation of children and their upbringing within a stable family relationship.

This is the norm in almost all human societal groups. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that marriage is between a man and a woman. Only around 4% of countries have same-sex marriage.

Over the millennia there have been groups and individuals where different standards have been held to, such as polygamy or homosexuality, but these have never been accepted as the norm in most societies.

For the Scottish Government to change the definition is quite wrong in our opinion. Couples of the same sex have already been given the same legal status as married couples by the legislation governing Civil Partnerships.

According to official statistics for 2010 there were just under 28,000 marriages conducted in Scotland compared with 465 Civil Partnerships. We see no reason why the Scottish Government (or even the United Kingdom Government) should change a definition which has satisfied the vast majority of the population of the world for millennia to cater for the very small number of persons wishing to enter into a commitment already covered by the CP legislation.

We therefore urge that the Scottish Government do not proceed with legislation to introduce same-sex marriage.
Question 11  (Paragraph 3.13)

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

Yes  X□
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  X□
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

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 [ ]
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 [X]
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   X
No
Don’t know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments

Question 20       (Paragraph 4.19)

Do you have any other comments?

Yes
No   X

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).