Dear Deputy First Minister,

As a civic association of Catholics with an inter-denominational support base throughout Scotland and whose goals include the defence of the institution of the family, we respond to the Scottish Government’s public consultation in the following terms:

1. For decades there has been an ideological movement that aims to establish total equality in religion, in politics, in the economy, and even amongst men themselves. It desires a world where all things are equal, uniform, standardised, and reduced to the same size and dimension, to the same nature and proportion. This vision of the universe goes contrary to the very nature of things, flying in the face of the evidence provided by everyday life itself. To propose religious ceremonies for civil partnerships and the introduction of “same sex marriage” promotes this pernicious ideological movement.

2. We echo the words of the Scottish Bishops Conference: “no government can rewrite human nature; the family and marriage existed before the State and are built on the union between a man and a woman. Any attempt to redefine marriage is a direct attack on a foundational building block of society”.

3. Finally but foremost, Scotland was founded on Christian principles to which it owes its greatness. What is being proposed in the Government’s public consultation is a violation of the natural moral order established by God. As such it will further undermine the moral fibre of our country and can only hasten the total moral and social disintegration of our society.

In light of these considerations, we strongly oppose the possibility of allowing religious ceremonies for civil partnerships and of introducing “same sex marriage” whether civil or religious.