**Question 1:** Do you agree that legislation should be changed so that civil partnerships could be registered through religious ceremonies?

No, Registration is a civil function and it is not appropriate that this should take place through a religious ceremony.

**Question 2:** Do you think that the proposals in England and Wales on registration of civil partnerships in religious premises would be appropriate for Scotland?

No, There is a significant difference between Scottish and English Law regarding the registration of marriage.

**Question 3:** Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in religious premises?

No, It is not appropriate for religious celebrants to register civil partnerships. It should be noted that religious celebrants do not register marriages, they solemnise them.

**Question 4:** Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in other places agreed between the celebrant and the couple?

Don't Know, We are surprised by the use of the word "register".

**Question 5:** Do you agree with allowing religious bodies to not be required to register civil partnerships?

Yes, Religious bodies do not "register" births, marriages and deaths as this is a function of the state.

**Question 6:** 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, They should not be allowed.

**Question 7:** Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to register civil partnerships?

Yes,

**Question 8:** Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to register civil partnerships against their will?

Option 2,

**Question 9:** 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?

No, Great care must be taken, under the freedom of religion, to ensure any new legislation does not confer any right to compel religious bodies to have their premises used for this purpose against their wishes.

**Question 10:** Do you agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to allow same sex marriage?

No, Such a change would be totally inconsistent with Christian teaching and goes against many centuries of tradition. It could open the way to all sorts of other changes being promoted. The Christian understanding
The definition that marriage is the union between one man and one woman is held by the vast majority of people not only within the world Church but around the world. This is as stated in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. No government has the authority to change this fundamental definition. We should add that this is not an equality issue as same-sex couples in Civil Partnerships have all the rights of married couples.

| Question 11: Do you agree that religious bodies and celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage? | Yes, |
| Question 12: Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex civil marriage only? | No, The introduction of such marriages would be a break with our historical understanding and with the understanding of the vast majority of people around the world. |
| Question 13: Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex marriage, both religious and civil? | No, |
| Question 14: Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage? | Yes, The state does not have the right to tell religious bodies what to do in matters of this kind. |
| Question 15: 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, In solemnising a marriage the religious celebrant is acting as a representative of the religious body and is authorised by that body. If the religious body has not authorised such a practice the religious celebrant should not solemnise such marriages. |
| Question 16: Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage? | Yes, |
| Question 17: 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? | Option 2, We are concerned about what is stated in paragraph 3.33 since this is at variance with the Marriage Scotland Act 1977. No religious celebrant is required to solemnise any particular marriage between a heterosexual couple. To suggest otherwise is to put at risk the freedom of religious
| Question 18: 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? | No, Great care must be taken, under the freedom of religion, to ensure any new legislation does not confer any right to compel religious bodies to have their premises used for this purpose against their wishes. |
| Question 19: If Scotland should introduce same-sex marriage, do you consider that civil partnerships should remain available? | Yes, There is scope for widening civil partnerships so that they are available to those who are not married but who share a house. This would enable them to take advantage of the benefits conferred by civil partnerships. At present such people are treated less favourably by the law. |
| Question 20: Do you have any other comments? | Yes, We are concerned by the suggestion that religious celebrants could be forced under Equality law to conduct such ceremonies against their wishes. Any legislation must ensure it protects the freedom of religious celebrants and this should be enshrined in the legislation. In the light of recent experience, the Scottish Government would be wise to ensure that, if the Act is introduced, it includes a statement to ensure that religious celebrants could not be compelled under the Equality Act to conduct same-sex ceremonies. |