



Care

CARE...making a Christian difference for the sake of the future



**Advice on
responding to
The Scottish
Government
consultation on
The Registration of
Civil Partnerships
and Same-Sex
Marriage**

“ *We tend towards the view that religious ceremonies for civil partnerships should no longer be prohibited and that same sex marriage should be introduced...* ”

Nicola Sturgeon
Deputy First Minister

CARE for Scotland



Care



...an exclusive view of marriage can be deemed to be judgemental. But in order for marriage to survive and thrive, it must be exclusive. Marriage cannot logically include every relationship form. Without exclusivity there is no meaning left to marriage.



Andrea Mrozek
The Institute of Marriage and Family Canada

Over thousands of years and throughout all cultures marriage has proved to be the most beneficial relationship for individuals and society. It provides the most stable, loving and secure environment for raising children. Children brought up by a mum and dad in a stable, married relationship are more likely to thrive emotionally, physically and educationally.

And yet the Scottish Government would like to compromise the benefits of marriage by re-defining it to include those in homosexual and lesbian relationships. The Government is also suggesting that civil partnership ceremonies should take place in churches.

Despite the major economic issues facing the country, the new SNP government and other political parties are prioritising the re-definition of marriage in this way. The SNP Government has launched a consultation on these proposals and it is imperative that as many people and churches as possible respond to the consultation by the deadline of 9th December 2011.

CARE for Scotland believes that we should support and affirm marriage solely as being between one man and one woman. Marriage is not something which can be re-defined at a whim. Marriage acknowledges the uniqueness of the complementary genders of male and female and their ability to create children and care for them. Indeed the real agenda of those advocating the re-definition of marriage may be to eliminate the Judaeo-Christian morality of this nation. Already there has been at least one call for legal recognition to be given to polyamorous

relationships - for example a bisexual person with two partners of different sexes - or polygamy.

Moreover, children will be taught in schools that marriage can be either between a man and a woman or between two people of the same sex. Already resources are being promoted by homosexual rights groups for use by schools which seek to normalise sexual relationships between people of the same sex. One of the aims of these materials is to enable children to resist the values imparted by their parents and grandparents. You need to act now to protect your children and grandchildren from a worldview which is essentially anti-Christian.

CARE for Scotland believes also that it would be inappropriate to allow civil partnerships to be registered at a religious ceremony. Civil partnerships were introduced in 2004 to extend financial and legal rights to same-sex couples and are intended to address a perceived inequality. As such, a civil partnership is a purely secular arrangement with no religious significance.

You can play your part in protecting marriage by responding to the Scottish Government's consultation. The more people who say they don't want same-sex marriage the more likely the Government is to abandon its intentions.

You may not have responded to a Government consultation before. It is your right to do so. Please do respond to ensure that Scotland does not re-define marriage to include homosexual and lesbian relationships.

Be part of the consultation – closing date Friday, 9th December 2011.



The case against same-sex marriage

- What is to prevent further redefinitions of marriage in the future? Already in Canada and in some US states, where same-sex marriage is now legal, attempts are being made to legalise polygamy
- Children in schools would be taught that two men or two women can marry each other
- It would change the public meaning of marriage from an institution with defined and objective social purposes to merely a right of subjective personal expression

The case for marriage, as solely being between a man and a woman

- The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that marriage is between a man and a woman
- Marriage has been proven as the most affirming and successful context in which to raise children
- Marriage has always been defined as a procreative relationship and the linchpin of all human family and kinship systems
- Marriage has provided social stability for thousands of years in widely differing societies
- For the benefit of society, marriage needs to be strengthened and not undermined
- One of the direct results of legalising homosexual and lesbian marriage is the legalisation of 3 parents for a child (if a same-sex couple introduce a child into their relationship by some means of artificial reproduction), as an Ontario court ruled in 2007
- Marriage is a social institution which has a significance greater than merely the companionship of two people
- It is a dangerous social experiment to re-engineer families based on natural parents - the basic building block of any society; these proposals reflect an attempt to destroy marriage as a societal norm

fact 1

Only around 4% of countries have same-sex marriage



fact 2

Ireland and France recently rejected same-sex marriage



fact 3

California accepted same-sex marriage but has now rejected it after a referendum



fact 4

A recent survey by the Office of National Statistics showed that a majority of the UK population are not in favour of same-sex marriage



fact 5

Every state referendum in the US has rejected same-sex marriage





How to respond to the consultation

The on-line consultation can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current> (Scroll down to 'Registration of civil partnership...')

Please note that if you do not want your name and/or address to be published on the Scottish Government web site you must say so in your response.

CARE for Scotland suggests that you answer the questions in this way:

Question no	Question	Suggested answer
1	Civil partnerships (CPs) registered at religious ceremonies?	No
2	CP proposals in England appropriate for Scotland?	Abstain
3	Ministers/pastors allowed to register CPs in religious premises?	No
4	Ministers/pastors allowed to register CPs at other locations?	Abstain
5	Religious bodies should not be required to register CPs	Yes
6	Ministers/pastors not allowed to register CPs if their denomination won't	Yes
7	Ministers/pastors should not be required to register CPs	Abstain
8	Choice of options	Option 2
9	No legislation required to prevent CPs against the will of a denomination	No
10	Law changed to allow same-sex marriage (SSM)	No
11	Ministers/pastors not required to be 'marry' same-sex couples	Yes
12	Do you agree with the introduction of same sex civil marriage only?	Abstain
13	Do you agree with legalising both same-sex civil and religious marriage?	No
14	Religious bodies should not be required to solemnise SSM	Yes
15	Ministers/pastors not allowed to perform SSM if their denomination won't	Yes
16	Ministers/pastors not required to perform SSM	Yes
17	Choice of options	Option 2
18	No legislation required to prevent SSM against the will of a denomination	No
19	If SSM were introduced, should CPs also be available?	Abstain
20	Do you have any further comments?	*See below

* For question 20, you may wish to add any other comments you feel are relevant.

Although the Government is asking people to respond to the consultation by means of these on-line questions, you can choose not to answer the consultation questions but instead make a personal, written submission which you should e-mail to: familylaw@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

or post to:

Sandra Jack
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
by Friday, 9th December 2011

If you have any queries contact
Sandra Jack on 0131 244 2025

Please feel free to contact CARE for Scotland if you need more information. A comprehensive briefing on the consultation can also be obtained from the address below.

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