

MARRIAGE CONSULTATION

Sample response to a few key questions

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with enabling all couples, regardless of their gender to have a civil marriage ceremony?

Agree

Disagree

Don't know

Question 2: Please explain the reasons for your answer. Please respond within 1,225 characters (approx 200 words).

- All relevant benefits of marriage are already available to same-sex couples through civil partnerships, as Parliament clearly intended in passing the Civil Partnerships Act.
- Marriage has always been a particular status joining one man and one woman for life. Its distinguishing feature is the creation and upbringing of children. Society has given it special protection because it provides the best circumstances for raising the next generation (as all evidence confirms).
- Extending marriage to same sex couples would break this link and fundamentally change the understanding of marriage for everybody.
- This would be reflected in what could be taught in schools, in what was regarded as an acceptable opinion in the work-place, and in the understanding of harassment under s.26 of the Equality Act 2010.

Question 5: The Government does not propose to open up religious marriage to same-sex couples. Do you agree or disagree?

Agree

Disagree

Don't know