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13 June 2012
Dr Julian Lewis MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Julian

SAME SEX MARRIAGE

This issue is causing much anguish. The statement a day or so ago by the Church seems itself to have brought the Hound of Heaven onto the scene. Articles in The Guardian by Simon Jenkins and Giles Fraser scent blood.

For what it's worth, here is (in part) what I recorded in the Home Office Consultation Questionnaire:

Marriage requires consummation and encourages establishment of a family but abhors consanguinity. Same-sex couples may practice sexual intimacy but are biologically unable to procreate. Wishing for children, they must find alternatives: adoption, surrogacy, etc. So true marriage is not possible for two people of the same sex. Same-sex couples are recognised under civil partnership legislation. Under current arrangements trans-sexuals in a civil partnership need to have their partnership dissolved before having a gender change recognised, since civil partnership is not available for couples of opposite sex. The proposal for same-sex marriage would allow married couples to retain their married status if one partner changed his or her sex. That is adduced in support of the proposal. But there is a perfectly sensible alternative: allow opposite-sex couples to register civil partnership. It should have been allowed in the first place. Religious organisations must be allowed to preach and teach their beliefs on the definition of marriage, not least under the religious freedom provisions of the ECHR. The State has penetrated too far into religious freedoms already. However, as the State now allows civil partnership, civil partnership should be available to all, regardless of sexual identity or orientation. The civil partnership arrangements should convey exactly the same civil rights and responsibilities as does marriage. It should be possible (for example) for two sisters, or two brothers, or a brother and a sister, or two cousins, or uncle and nephew, or two friends living together to achieve civil partnership without the State enquiring into their sexual arrangements.

I wonder what you think about it? Will there be a free vote? If so how will you vote?

Yours sincerely

John Dexter