



Government
Equalities Office

Putting equality at the heart of government



Equal civil marriage

Tell us what you think about our plans

Easy Read Document



Easy Read

Important

This is a big booklet, but you may not want to read all of it.

Look at the list of contents on pages 1 and 2. It shows what is in the booklet. Look down the list to find things you want to read about.

Green writing

In this Easy Read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. We then write what the words mean in a blue box.

These words and what they mean are also in a Words list at the back of the booklet.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing. If you see words in **normal green** writing, you can look up what they mean by looking for the blue box earlier in the booklet, or by looking at the Words list.

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A message from the Ministers

In 2010 we asked people what they thought about how **civil partnerships** might change in the future.

Civil partnerships or civil partners

This is when two men or two women are in love and make promises to each other so that the law sees them as a couple. Civil partnership is not the same as marriage, but civil partners get many of the same rights as married people.

At that time many people told us they thought **same-sex couples** should be able to get married.

Same-sex couple

This is when two men or two women are in love with each other.



Some people said that having different rules for **same-sex couples** and **opposite-sex couples** could mean that some people continue to have the wrong idea about **same-sex couples**. And different rules can mean **same sex couples** are treated unfairly.

Opposite-sex couple

This is when a man and a woman are in love with each other.

Same-sex couples can be **civil partners**, but this is not marriage and they cannot say they are married. We think this is unfair.

When **civil partnerships** began in 2005 it was an important step forward for **same-sex couples**. It changed things so that the law treated their promises to each another in the same way as the promises made by **opposite-sex couples**.

For the first time, **same-sex couples** could have the same rights, protection and duties as other couples.

We believe that the promises made by **same-sex couples** when they become **civil partners** are the same as the promises made by **opposite-sex couples** when they get married.

So it is unfair that a **same-sex couple** who love each other are not allowed to be married.

That is why we are having this **consultation**. We want to know your ideas about the best way to stop the ban on **same-sex couples** getting married, but in a way that works for everyone.

Consultation or consulting

This is when the Government asks what people think about its plans, and for ideas about the best way of doing things.

We do not want to change the way religious groups treat marriages. And we want to keep **civil partnerships** for **same-sex couples** who do not want to be married.

The changes we want to make are not about the government getting too involved in people's lives. It is about giving people choice. If marriage is a good thing, we should allow **all** couples to marry, and that includes **same-sex couples**.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theresa May'.

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary and
Minister for Women
and Equalities



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Featherstone'.

Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister for Equality

About the consultation

When this booklet says ‘we’ or ‘us’, it means the government.

What the consultation is about

The **consultation** asks for ideas about how we can give **same-sex couples** an equal right to have a **civil marriage**.

Civil marriages

These are marriages that **are not** made in a religious building.

Who the consultation is for

The **consultation** is for people in England or Wales. We would especially like to hear from

- married people and **civil partners**, or people who want to be married or **civil partners** in the future.



- religious groups.

- local councils, including those in charge of register offices.
- groups with an interest in families and relationships.
- **lesbian, gay men, bisexual and transgender** groups.

Lesbian, gay men, bisexual and transgender

Lesbians are women who are attracted to other women.

Gay men are attracted to other men.

Bisexual people are attracted to men and to women.

Transgender people have changed their sex from being a man to being a woman, or from being a woman to being a man.

When the consultation ends

The **consultation** ends on 14 June 2012.

How to send us your ideas or ask questions

Information about how to send us your answers or ask questions is on page 34.

What happens after the consultation ends

After the **consultation** ends, we will look at what people said. We will then write a booklet about what we will do next.

Our new booklet will take account of what people said during the **consultation**. But it may not take account of what people said about things that are not part of the **consultation**.

What we say – in just a few words

This part talks about the main things we say in this booklet. It does not include all the information. If you want to read all the information, see pages 14-34.

This **consultation** is about the best way to lift the ban on **same-sex couples** getting married. What we say in this booklet applies to **civil marriages**. It **does not** apply to **religious marriages**.

Religious marriages

These are marriages that made in a religious building.

Most of the booklet is about the people and groups this change affects, but we know that other people are interested too. That is why this **consultation** asks everyone for their ideas.

What the law is now

As the law is now

- only a man and a woman can be married.
- **religious marriages** are made in buildings like churches.
- **civil marriages** are made in non-religious buildings, like hotels.

And as the law is now

- only **same-sex couples** can be **civil partners**.
- **civil partnerships** are made in a non-religious way, but can take place in religious or non-religious buildings.

Why we want to make the change

During a **consultation** in 2010, many people told us that **same-sex couples** should have an equal right to have a **civil marriage**.



As a result we said we would work with others to see how we could change the marriage laws. This **consultation** asks for your ideas about the best way to do this.

It was clear that the first thing to think about was finding a way for **same-sex couples** to have a **civil marriage**.

What led to this consultation

We decided to have a **consultation** so that everyone has a chance to tell us their ideas about how to find a way for **same-sex couples** to have a **civil marriage**.

It is important to remember that this **consultation is not** about changing the law about **civil partnerships**.

We had meetings with many different groups, including **lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender** groups, and religious groups. They told us what they thought, and this helped us understand how any changes might affect them.

We listened to religious groups who do not want to change **religious marriages** because they believe that marriage can only be between a man and a woman. That is why this **consultation** is only about **civil marriages**. This means that

- **same-sex couples** will not be able to have a **religious marriage**.
- after the changes, **same-sex couples** will not be able to have a **civil marriage** in a religious building.

Civil marriage for **same-sex couples** is not a new idea, and many other countries are making these kinds of changes too.

What we want to happen

This is what we want to happen.

- We want to end the ban on **same-sex couples** having a **civil marriage**.
- We believe the promises made by 2 men or 2 women for a **civil partnership** are as important as those made by a man and a woman for a **civil marriage**. So it is only right that **same-sex couples** have the right to have a **civil marriage**.
- We know that **civil marriages** and **civil partnerships** are different – we talk about this on pages 12-13. But this **consultation** is not only about differences. It is also about equal treatment for **same-sex couples**.

- We **do not** want to make any changes to **religious marriages**. The law only allows **religious marriage** between a man and a woman, and we do not want to change this.



- We want to change the rules so that **transsexual people** can change their sex without having to end their marriage first.

Transsexual people

These are people who feel they were born the wrong sex. Such as someone who feels like they are a woman but they were born as a boy, or someone who feels like they are a man but they were born as a girl.

Same-sex **civil marriages** would mean

- a married **transsexual person** could change their sex without having to end their marriage first.
- a **transsexual person** in a **civil partnership** could change their sex without having to end their **civil partnership** first. These couples would have to change their **civil partnership** to a **civil marriage**. They could not stay as **civil partners** because the law does not allow opposite-sex **civil partnerships**.

What the differences are now

When **civil partnerships** started, they were meant to give **same-sex couples** the same kind of rights and duties as married people. But there are still some big differences.

- Different laws apply to **civil partnerships** and marriages.

For example, when filling in a form, the law says that **civil partners** must not say they are married, and married people must not say they are **civil partners**. So, when someone says they are a **civil partner**, people know they are **lesbian** or **gay**.

- **Civil marriages** are made when 2 people say some special words. But **civil partnerships** are made by signing a book – no words are needed.



- Married people and **civil partners** have the same kinds of rights and duties but there are still some differences. For example, there are different rules about some pension rights, love affairs with other people, and the titles people use.

- **Opposite-sex couples** can have a **religious marriage** in a religious building or a **civil marriage**, usually in a register office.
- **Same-sex couples** can have a **ceremony** when they set up their **civil partnership**. But it cannot be a religious **ceremony**, even if it is done in a religious building.

Ceremony

This is an event where a group of people get together to enjoy something special, such as a marriage. People often say special words at a ceremony.

The main things we want to change

This is the end of this part. But before we go to the next part, here is a list of the main things we want to change.

- We want to change the law so that **same-sex couples** can have a **civil marriage**.
- We want to keep **civil partnerships** for **same-sex couples**. They will still be able to make their **civil partnership** in a religious building if the religious group agrees. But the **ceremony** for the **civil partnership** must not be religious.
- We want to change the law so that **transsexual people** can change their sex without having to end their marriage first.
- We want to change the law so that **civil partners** can change their **civil partnership** into a **civil marriage**.

But we **do not** want to make any changes to the way **religious marriages** are made.

What we say – in full

This **consultation** is about how we can change the law so that **same-sex couples** can have a **civil marriage**.

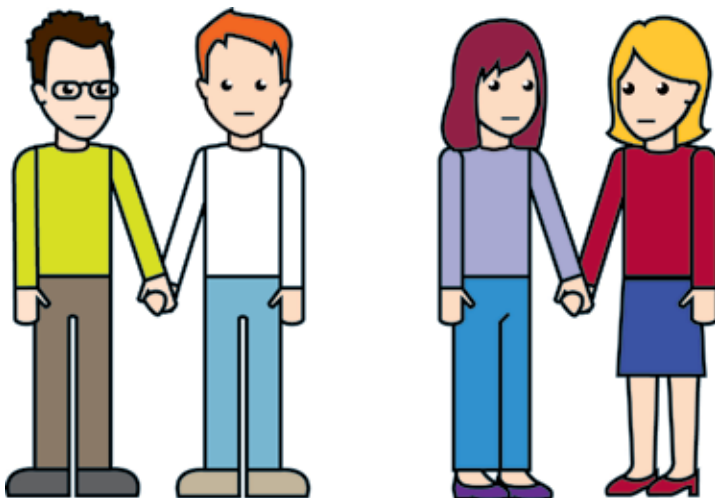
- First we look at equal **civil marriage** and what the changes mean for married people (pages 14-20).
- Then we look at **civil partners** (pages 21-25) and **transgender people** (pages 26-28) and what the changes mean for them.

Important. This **consultation** is not about making any changes to **religious marriages** or **civil partnerships**. For example, it is not about **civil partnerships** for **opposite-sex couples**.

Marriage

How things are now

The law says that only a man and a woman can be married. As a result, **same-sex couples** cannot be married.



But the law does not talk about the difference between **religious marriage** and **civil marriage**. Instead, it says which religions or people can do a marriage, and where marriages are done.

- 1 The Church of England or Church in Wales can do marriages. The **consultation is not** about these marriages.
- 2 The Quakers (the Society of Friends) can do marriages. The **consultation is not** about these marriages.
- 3 The Jewish religion can do marriages. The **consultation is not** about these marriages.
- 4 Other religions can do marriages in their religious buildings, but only if they follow the law's rules. The **consultation is not** about these marriages.
- 5 A **registrar** can do **civil marriages** in many places.

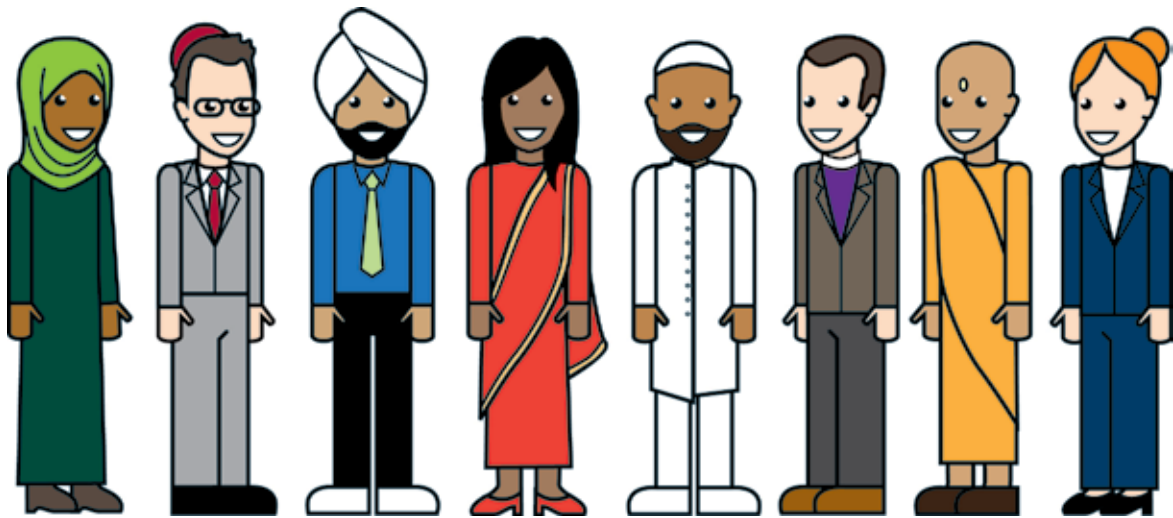
Registrar

This is someone the law allows to make **civil marriages**. Registrars can make civil marriages in register offices, approved places like hotels, in a person's home or in hospital if they are very ill, or in a prison.

The **consultation is** about these marriages because we want to change the law to allow **same-sex couples** to have a **civil marriage**.

What we don't want to do

We **don't** want to make any changes to marriages made by religious groups. These are shown as numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 on page 15. **Religious marriages are not** part of this **consultation**.



So there will be no changes to the marriages made by the Church of England, the Quakers, the Jews and any other religious group. And **religious marriages** will only be allowed between a man and a woman.

What we want to do

This **consultation** is about the changes we want to make to **civil marriages**. These are shown as number 5 on page 15.

We want to change the law so that **same-sex couples** and **opposite-sex couples** can have a **civil marriage** at a register office, or at other places like a hotel.

Whichever kind of marriage a couple have, we want the law to treat them as equally married. We do not want separate laws for **religious marriages** and **civil marriages**.

We want to make the law clear.

- Both **same-sex couples** and **opposite-sex couples** can have a **civil marriage**.
- But only a man and a woman can have a **religious marriage**.

This **consultation** is about finding the best way to allow **same-sex couples** to have a **civil marriage**. **It is not about whether this should or should not happen.**

We know people have many different thoughts about same-sex marriages. And we want to hear what people think about it. So here are the first 4 questions we'd like you to answer.

Question 1

Do you agree or disagree that **same-sex couples** and **opposite-sex couples** should have an equal right to a **civil marriage**?

Question 2

Please tell us the reasons for your answer to Question 1. Do not use more than 200 words.

Question 3

If you are a **lesbian, gay man, bisexual or transsexual**, would you want to have a **civil marriage**?

Question 4

If you are speaking for a group of people who are **lesbian, gay men, bisexual or transsexual**, would the people in the group want to have a **civil marriage**?

What the changes will mean

Religious marriage

We want Britain to be a fairer place to live and we want to make sure people of all religions are treated fairly and get an equal chance in life.

Because we only want to remove the ban on **same-sex couples** having a **civil marriage**, we will make sure the law is clear that **religious marriages** can only be between a man and a woman.

So the courts will not be able to force religious groups to do a marriage for a **same-sex couple**. The changes we want to make **will not** give **same-sex couples** the right to have a **religious marriage** in a religious building.

The Church of England

Opposite-sex couples have the right to a Church of England marriage in their local church. The changes we want to make will not change this.

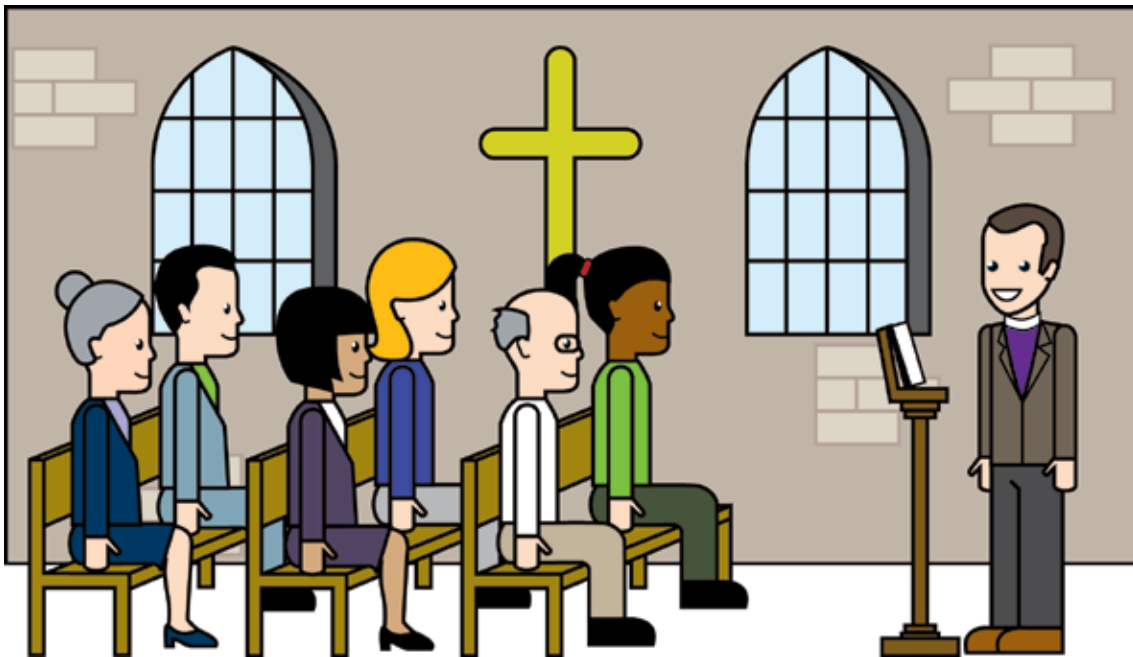
After the changes, **same-sex couples will not** have the right to a Church of England marriage, and it will be against the law for a Church of England minister to marry a **same-sex couple** in their church.

As a result, the courts will not be able to force a Church of England minister to do a marriage for a **same-sex couple**.

Religious beliefs about marriage

We know that the holy books of many religions say that marriage can only be between a man and a woman, and we do not want to change people's religious beliefs and guidance.

So we will make sure the law allows people to talk about their belief that marriage should only be between a man and woman.



Question 5

The changes will not allow **same-sex couples** to have a **religious marriage**. Do you agree or disagree with this?

Civil partnerships made in religious buildings

Some religious groups already allow **same-sex couples** to make their **civil partnership** in a religious building in front of the people they know. We want this to continue.

More about this is on page 24.

Ending a marriage or civil partnership

The law is different for ending marriages and **civil partnerships**. For example, a court can end a marriage if a married person has a love affair with another person.



As the law is now, a **civil partner** cannot use this as a reason to end a **civil partnership**.

But if we allow **same-sex couples** to have a **civil marriage**, the same rules will apply to same-sex **civil marriages** **and** opposite-sex **civil marriages**. And as a result, the reasons for ending a marriage will be the same for everyone.

Civil partners

How things are now

Civil partnerships were a big step forward when they started in 2005. They were made to give **same-sex couples** the same kinds of rights and duties as married people.

They have been very successful, because over 46,000 **civil partnerships** have been made since 2005.

We know that many people believe **civil partnerships** are a good thing. That's why we want to keep **civil partnerships** for **same-sex couples** in the future.

What we want to do

We want to move forward to allow **same-sex couples** to have a **civil marriage**. At the same time, we also want to keep **civil partnerships**, but only for **same-sex couples**.

What the changes will mean

Keeping civil partnerships

Civil partnerships have been very successful in helping people understand and accept **same-sex couples**. So we want to keep them, even when **same-sex couples** have the right to a **civil marriage**.

Question 6

Do you agree or disagree with keeping **civil partnerships** in the future when **same-sex couples** will be able to have a **civil marriage**?

Question 7

Please answer this if you are a **lesbian, gay man** or **bisexual**. If you and your partner were choosing whether to have a **civil partnership** or a **civil marriage**, which would you choose?



We are not thinking about having **civil partnerships** for **opposite-sex couples**. This is because we do not think there is a need. But we also know there may be some people who do not agree with us.

Question 8

The government **is not** thinking about **civil partnerships** for **opposite-sex couples**. Do you agree or disagree with this?

Changing civil partnerships to marriage

Since 2005, the law has allowed 2 men or 2 women who love each other to become **civil partners**. As **civil partners** they have the same kinds of rights, duties and protections as **opposite-sex couples** who are married.

But we know that many **civil partners** would have chosen marriage if the law had given them the choice at the time.

Because of this we want to have a new process to allow **same-sex couples** to change their **civil partnership** into a **civil marriage** if they want to. Those who do not want to change to a **civil marriage** can stay as **civil partners**.

This is how we think the new process could work.

- The couple would fill in a form to apply for the change. When the change is made, they would get a marriage certificate. They would have to pay a small amount for this.
- If the couple wanted, they could have a **civil marriage ceremony**. But they may have to pay a small amount for this.
- There would be no time limit on changing a **civil partnership** into a **civil marriage**.
- The law would not see the change as a break. So any rights, duties and benefits the couple had during their **civil partnership** would continue into their marriage without a break. More about this is on pages 29-30.

Question 9

If you are a **civil partner**, would you want to change your **civil partnership** into a **marriage**?

Question 10

Do you agree or disagree that there should be no time limit on changing a **civil partnership** into a marriage?

Question 11

Do you agree or disagree that **same-sex couples** should be able to choose to have a **ceremony** when they change their **civil partnership** into a marriage?

Civil partnership ceremonies in religious buildings

Since 5 December 2011, **same-sex couples** have been able to have a **ceremony** for their **civil partnership** in a religious building, if this is allowed by the religious group.

Each religious group can decide whether or not they want to allow **ceremonies** for **civil partnerships** in their religious buildings.

But even if the **ceremony** for the **civil partnership** is done in a religious building, it cannot be religious – for example, there can be no hymns or religious readings.

Allowing **civil partnerships** to be made in a religious building was a big step forward for **lesbian, gay and bisexual** rights, and also for religious freedom. As a result, we want this to continue.

This means religious **same-sex couples** will have a choice.

- 1 They could have a **ceremony** for a **civil marriage**, but not in a religious building. For example, the **ceremony** would be held in a register office or a hotel. They could then get a blessing in a religious building if this is allowed by the religious group.
- 2 They could have a **ceremony** for a **civil partnership** in a religious building if the religious group allows this, but the **ceremony** must not be religious.



Transgender people

How things are now

If a person wants a new birth certificate because their sex has changed since they were born, the law says that they must get a **gender recognition certificate**.

Gender recognition certificate

This is a certificate from a group of experts called a gender recognition panel. The certificate says a person's sex has changed since they were born. The person uses this to get a new birth certificate showing their new details.

As things are now, married people and **civil partners** must end their marriage or **civil partnership** before they can get a full **gender recognition certificate**.

This is because

- the law says **same-sex couples** cannot be married.
- the law says **opposite-sex couples** cannot be **civil partners**.

This can cause a lot of upset for **transsexual people** and their partners, especially those who want to stay together as married or **civil partners**. It also causes problems with pensions and benefits records.

What we want to do

We want to make sure **transsexual people** do not have to end a marriage if they want to change their sex.

To make this happen we need to change the law so that

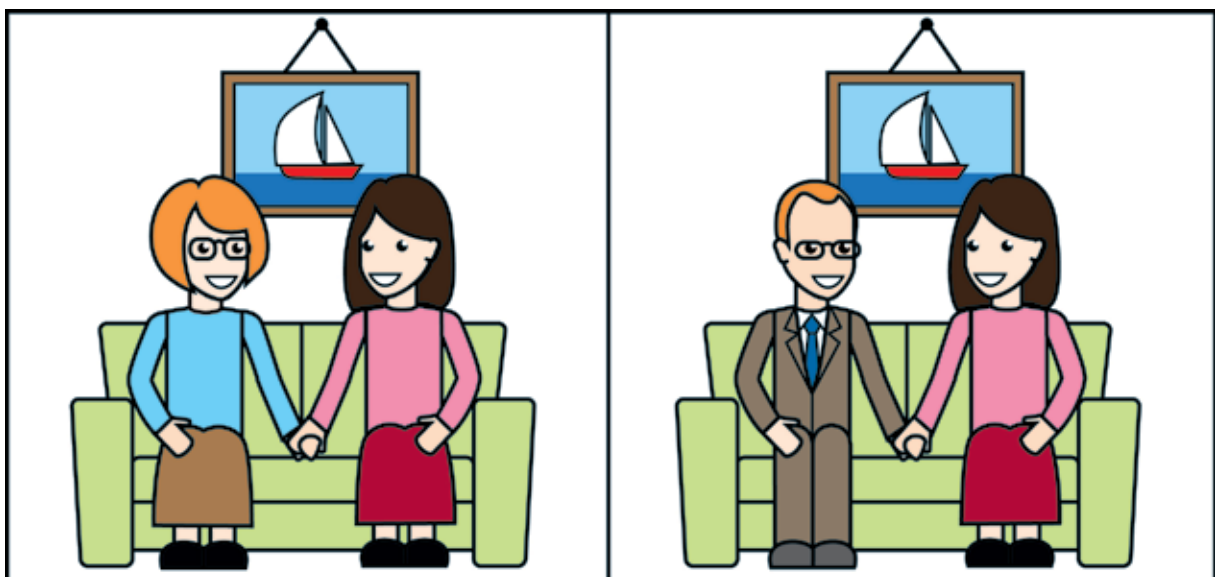
- **same-sex couples** can have a **civil marriage**. The result of the change would mean that if a married person changed their sex, the couple could stay married as a **same-sex couple**.

Example

As the law is now, if a man and a woman are married and the woman wants to change her sex, the couple must end their marriage, even if they want to stay together. This is because the law does not allow same-sex marriages.

But if we change the law, the woman could change her sex and the couple could stay married as a **same-sex couple**.

- **civil partners** can apply to change their **civil partnership** into a **civil marriage**. The result of the change would mean that if a **civil partner** changed their sex, the couple could stay married as an **opposite-sex couple**.



What the changes will mean

Benefits

Some people may have ended a marriage to become **civil partners** so that 1 partner could get a full **gender recognition certificate**. If there was a break between the marriage and the **civil partnership**, this may have a bad effect their benefits.

The changes we want to make mean that these couples can change their **civil partnership** into a **civil marriage** and become a married couple again. But we will not be able to put right any bad effect on their benefits that happened before the changes.

Gender recognition certificates

We think the process for getting a full **gender recognition certificate** should not take into account whether the person is in a **civil marriage** or a **religious marriage**.

We think that people in a **religious marriage** should be treated in the same way as people in a **civil marriage**.

Question 12

If you are a married **transsexual person**, would you want to stay married while you are getting a full **gender recognition certificate**?

Question 13

If you are married to a **transsexual person**, would you want to stay married while your partner is getting a full **gender recognition certificate**?

Other things to think about

This is the last part of this booklet. It is about other things we need to think about as a result of this **consultation**.

State pensions

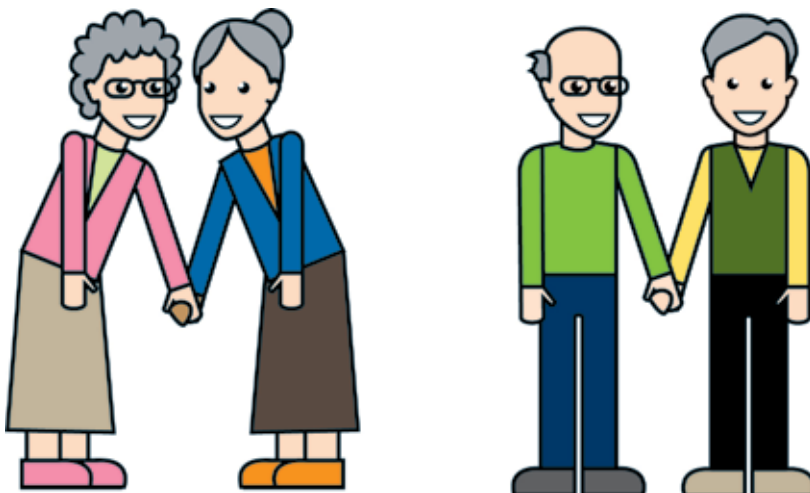
State pensions has some different rules for married men and women.

State pensions

This is money most people get when they retire. It is paid out of money they pay to the government during their working life.

When **civil partnerships** started in 2005, the Department for Work and Pensions decided that it should treat all **civil partners** as married men when working out **state pension**.

The Department for Work and Pensions is now thinking about how it should treat people in a same-sex **civil marriage**.



Work pensions

Some work pensions continue to be paid to a surviving partner when one of a couple dies. If this involves a **same-sex couple**, the law says pension schemes only need pay the part of the pension that built up after **civil partnerships** started in 2005.

The Department for Work and Pensions is thinking about whether the rule should also apply to people in a same-sex **civil marriage**. It is also looking at what would happen if the rule was taken away or changed.

Marriage and civil partnership records

As things are now, local councils keep different information about **civil partnerships** and **civil marriages**. For example

- marriage records have information about the couples' fathers, but **civil partnership** records have information about the couples' fathers **and** mothers.
- all the information in the marriage records can be looked at by anyone, but **civil partnership** records have the couple's address removed before other people can look at them.

We need to think about changing the amount of information shown in marriage records.

Other countries

Some countries do not accept Britain's **civil partnerships**, and we know they will not accept our same-sex **civil marriages**. We will work to get more countries to accept **same-sex couples** whether they are in a **civil partnership** or **civil marriage**.

In the future we need to think about how we should treat **same-sex couples** who come to visit or come to live in Britain. For example, should we treat them as married or **civil partners**.

We must also check and make sure we are using the best way to record information about **same-sex couples** from other countries that we accept as married or **civil partners**.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will think about how this **consultation** affects the marriages and **civil partnerships** that take place in our embassies in foreign countries.



Devolved government

Marriage is one of the things that are looked after by the **devolved governments** in Northern Ireland and Scotland, so this **consultation** only applies to England and Wales.

Devolved governments

These are the governments in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The UK government has given devolved governments the power to make some decisions for their own areas.

We know that the Scottish government is working on changes to Scotland's marriage laws. If there are any changes to the marriage law of Scotland, we will check if this changes the way we accept marriages and **civil partnerships** made in Scotland.

This also applies to any changes the Northern Ireland government may make to Northern Ireland's marriage laws.

Other laws

We know that some laws and government booklets talk about marriage being between a man and a woman.

We will change these laws and booklets to take account of any changes we make as a result of this **consultation**.

Things that will not change

Some things will not change as a result of this **consultation**. For example, there will be no changes to

- taxes and benefits.
- the rights of parents.
- the rules for people coming to live in this country.
- the rights of religious groups to talk about and teach their religious beliefs about marriage.

Question 14

Do you want to tell us anything about the things written on pages 29 to 32? Please do not use more than 200 words.

Costs

We have worked out what we think it will cost to bring in equal **civil marriage**. We have tried to keep the cost as low as we can.

Same-sex couples who want a **civil marriage** will have to pay in the same way that **opposite-sex couples** have to pay for their marriage. Same-sex couples will have to pay to change a **civil partnership** into a **civil marriage**, but this will not be very much.



Question 15

Are there any other costs or benefits that the government or anyone else might get as a result of bringing in equal **civil marriage**? Please do not use more than 200 words.

Question 16

Is there anything else you want to say about the changes in this booklet? Please do not use more than 200 words.

How to reply to this consultation

If you want to reply to this consultation please complete the online response form.

Or you can email your answers to the **consultation** questions to

equalcivilmarriage@geo.gsi.gov.uk

Or you can fill in pages 35-42 and then send them to

Equal civil marriage consultation responses
Government Equalities Office
3rd Floor Fry
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF



If you have any questions

If you have any questions or need this **consultation** in another format please email us at equalcivilmarriage@geo.gsi.gov.uk or send a letter to us at the above address.

Do you agree or disagree that **same-sex couples** and **opposite-sex couples** should have an equal right to a **civil marriage**?

☐ I don't know.

Please tell us the reasons for your answer to Question 1.
Do not use more than 200 words.

[illegible]

Question 3

If you are a **lesbian, gay man, bisexual or transsexual**, would you want to have a **civil marriage**?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.
- ☐ I don't know.
- ☐ This question does not apply to me.

Question 4

If you are speaking for a group of people who are **lesbian, gay men, bisexual or transsexual**, would the people in the group want to have a **civil marriage**?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.
- ☐ I don't know.
- ☐ This question does not apply to me.

Question 5

The changes will not allow **same-sex couples** to have a **religious marriage**. Do you agree or disagree with this?

- ☐ I agree – **same-sex couples** should not be able to have a **religious marriage**.
- ☐ I disagree – **same-sex couples** should be able to have a **religious marriage**.
- ☐ I don't know.

Question 6

Do you agree or disagree with keeping **civil partnerships** in the future when **same-sex couples** will be able to have a **civil marriage**?

- ☐ I agree.
- ☐ I disagree.
- ☐ I don't know.

Question 7

Please answer this if you are a **lesbian, gay man** or **bisexual**. If you and your partner were choosing whether to have a **civil partnership** or a **civil marriage**, which would you choose?

- ☐ Civil partnership.
- ☐ Civil marriage.
- ☐ I don't mind.
- ☐ I don't know.
- ☐ This question does not apply to me.

Question 8

The government **is not** thinking about **civil partnerships** for **opposite-sex couples**. Do you agree or disagree with this?

- ☐ I agree – **same-sex couples** should not be able to have a **civil partnership**.
- ☐ I disagree – **same-sex couples** should be able to have a **civil partnership**.
- ☐ I don't know.

Question 9

If you are a **civil partner**, would you want to change your **civil partnership** into a **marriage**?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.
- ☐ I don't know.
- ☐ This question does not apply to me.

Question 10

Do you agree or disagree that there should be no time limit on changing a **civil partnership** into a marriage?

- ☐ I agree – there should not be a time limit.
- ☐ I disagree – there should be a time limit.
- ☐ I don't know.

Question 11

Do you agree or disagree that **same-sex couples** should be able to choose to have a **ceremony** when they change their **civil partnership** into a marriage?

- ☐ Yes, there should be a choice
- ☐ No, there should not be a choice.
- ☐ I don't know.

Question 12

If you are a married **transsexual person**, would you want to stay married while you are getting a full **gender recognition certificate**?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.
- ☐ I don't know.
- ☐ This question does not apply to me.

Question 13

If you are married to a **transsexual person**, would you want to stay married while your partner is getting a full **gender recognition certificate**?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.
- ☐ I don't know.
- ☐ This question does not apply to me.

Question 14

Do you want to tell us anything about the things written on pages 29 to 32? Please do not use more than 200 words.

[illegible]

Question 16

Is there anything else you want to say about the changes in this booklet? Please do not use more than 200 words.

Words list

Ceremony

This is an event where a group of people get together to enjoy something special, such as a marriage. People often say special words at a ceremony 13

Civil partnerships or civil partners

This is when two men or two women are in love and make promises to each other so that the law sees them as a couple. Civil partnership is not the same as marriage, but civil partners get many of the same rights as married people3

Civil marriages

These are marriages that are not made in a religious building.8

Consultation or consulting

This is when the Government asks what people think about its plans, and for ideas about the best way of doing things.....5

Devolved governments

These are the governments in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The UK government has given devolved governments the power to make some decisions for their own areas..... 31

Gender recognition certificate

This is a certificate from a group of experts called a gender recognition panel. The certificate says a person's sex has changed since they were born. The person uses this to get a new birth certificate showing their new details..... 26

Lesbian, gay men, bisexual and transgender

Lesbians are women who are attracted to other women.

Gay men are attracted to other men.

Bisexual people are attracted to men and to women.

Transgender people have changed their sex from being a man to being a woman, or from being a woman to being a man 7

Opposite-sex couple

This is when a man and a woman are in love with each other .4

Registrar

This is someone the law allows to make **civil marriages**. Registrars can make civil marriages in register offices, approved places like hotels, in a person's home or in hospital if they are very ill, or in a prison..... 15

Religious marriages

These are marriages that made in a religious building.8

Same-sex couple

This is when two men or two women are in love with each other.....3

State pensions

This is money most people get when they retire. It is paid out of money they pay to the government during their working life 29

Transsexual people

These are people who feel they were born the wrong sex. Such as someone who feels like they are a woman but they were born as a boy, or someone who feels like they are a man but they were born as a girl 11

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