

# PLEASE RESPOND TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE



The Government Equalities Office is holding a public consultation on same-sex marriage. It closes on Thursday 14 June.

You can tell the Government directly that you oppose its plans to redefine marriage by taking part in the consultation. Please encourage friends who are also concerned to participate in this consultation.

The Coalition for Marriage is encouraging people to respond only to questions 1 & 2, which ask whether you agree or disagree with the plans in principle. There are several other detailed questions which do not deal with the core issue.

You can respond using C4M's simple online form ([www.c4m.org.uk/consultation](http://www.c4m.org.uk/consultation)). Or you can send an email or a letter (contact details below). The consultation document can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/7pyp3qr>

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

Disagree

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

Use *two or three* of the following points. Responses should be brief, polite and in your own words.

- Same-sex marriage was not in the manifesto of any of the major political parties at the 2010 General Election. The Government therefore has no mandate to force through such controversial legislation.

- The majority of the British public is against changing the definition of marriage. 70 per cent support the view that marriage should remain an exclusive commitment between a man and a woman.<sup>1</sup>
- Marriage provides children with a mother and a father. But redefining marriage sends out the message that it does not matter whether children are raised by both their mother and their father, or by a parent of each sex at all.
- Throughout history, heterosexual marriage has been the norm. There is no evidence to suggest that redefining marriage will bring any social benefit. It is an unproven social experiment.
- Marriage predates the state and any organised religion. It is not the role of the state to redefine it, but rather to recognise it for what it is and protect it as a unique institution.
- Married couples shouldn't be turned away from fostering or adoption just for supporting traditional marriage. Married couples have already been barred from fostering or adoption because of their beliefs about sexual ethics and marriage. If marriage is redefined this problem will escalate dramatically.
- Same-sex couples can already obtain all the legal benefits of marriage by entering a civil partnership. There is therefore no need for same-sex marriage.

**Email:** [equalcivilmarriage@geo.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:equalcivilmarriage@geo.gsi.gov.uk)

**Send a letter to:**

Equal civil marriage consultation responses,  
Government Equalities Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Fry,  
2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

<sup>1</sup> Marriage Survey, ComRes, 23-24 February 2012