

## Scottish Youth Parliament Press Office

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011

### SYP launch its “Love Equally” campaign to get Scottish Government to work quickly on Marriage Equality

Today, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 1100hrs the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) launched its campaign to urge the Scottish Government to allow same-sex couples the right to get married.

Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) from across Scotland will be taking the message out to Scotland that two people who love each other should be able to get married; it's as simple as that. Young people in their thousands have told the SYP that the law should be the same for everyone.

Research shows the majority of Scots of all ages support marriage equality. This is a reality in 10 countries already, with several others moving in that direction. SYP will be campaigning over the next year to ensure that Scotland is not left behind.

The main objectives of the campaign are:

- Same-sex couples are allowed to get married if they want to;
- Mixed-sex couples are allowed to register a civil partnership if they want to;
- If religious organisations want to perform same-sex marriages and civil partnerships, they should be allowed to do so.

With the help of some great promotional materials, including LOVE branded red silicon wedding rings, MSYPs will use a series of events, ranging from national festivals, local youth group meetings, street campaign activities and meetings with politicians, to explain to young people in their area why they should support the equal marriage campaign.

The campaign has been lent support by Marco Biagi MSP who submitted a Motion in Scottish Parliament, as follows: **\*S4M-00276—Scottish Youth Parliament to Campaign for Marriage Equality:** That the Parliament celebrates its long and close working relationship with the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP); notes that the SYP represents young people aged 14 to 25 from all across Scotland; further notes that, at its annual general meeting on 11-12 June 2011, the SYP chose to make marriage equality for same-sex couples its priority campaign for the coming year; awaits the opportunity for what it considers to be the wide range of views held on this subject to be expressed when the Scottish Government formally launches its consultation, and encourages the SYP, as part of its campaign, to play a full and proper role in this process. Supported by: Jamie Hepburn, Linda Fabiani, Rob Gibson, David Torrance, Kevin Stewart, Maureen Watt, Fiona McLeod, Alison Johnstone, Mike MacKenzie, Patrick Harvie, Bob Doris, John Park

Grant Costello, Chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament said:

“The core purpose of the Scottish Youth Parliament is to involve young people in deciding the future of Scotland. The young people of Scotland have told us that two people who love each other should be able to get married and it is now up to us to lobby the government and ask politicians to listen to them and make their voice heard. By getting young people to be the messengers, we hope to explain the difference between civil-partnerships and marriage via a series of local and national campaign activities. Our

message to Scotland is that all laws regarding homosexual relationships, whether male or female, should be equal to those of heterosexual relationships”

Ends.

#### Notes to Editors

- 1) Campaign launch was held outside Scottish Parliament on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 11.00am.
- 2) All media enquiries to Kate Bouchier-Hayes on 07825 335 489.
- 3) The Scottish Youth Parliament is the democratically elected voice of Scotland’s young people. It was established in 1999, and is a youth-led organisation, with 150 elected members, aged 14-25. The SYP campaigns on a wide range of issues, and represents young people all over Scotland. It gives young people a national platform to voice their issues, turn them into positive actions, and influence Scotland’s decision makers.
- 4) The full details of the campaign can be found and further information on the Scottish Youth Parliament can be found at [www.syp.org.uk](http://www.syp.org.uk)
- 5) Reference to support for marriage equality in Scotland is taken from Equal Commission  
[www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/Scotland/Projects\\_and\\_Campaigns/pdf\\_final\\_2.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/Projects_and_Campaigns/pdf_final_2.pdf)
- 6) The ten countries to legislate for marriage equality are Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, South Africa and Sweden.
- 7) Props kindly donated by [www.kleen-cleaners.co.uk](http://www.kleen-cleaners.co.uk) and wedding cake donated by [www.toogoodtoeat.co.uk](http://www.toogoodtoeat.co.uk)