

APPHG inquiry on humanist marriage - terms of reference

Agreed ahead of APPHG meeting on 21 February 2018

Scope

In response to parliamentary questions, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has stated that in its view, ‘the range of issues that the Government would be required to consider’ before giving legal recognition to humanist marriages in England and Wales are those that ‘can be found in the Government response to the consultation on marriages by non-religious belief organisations.’¹ The All Party Parliamentary Humanist Group intends to examine these issues in detail and produce a report, to assist Government in expediting the legal recognition of humanist marriages.

The APPHG should assess how justified these concerns are; if they are unjustified, explain why not; and if they are justified, consider what mitigating measures might be easily introduced.

Timetable

The APPHG will hold its first meeting to launch the inquiry on 21 February. It will report at its meeting of 24 May, having gathered further evidence in the interim.

Evidence to be heard

The APPHG will seek evidence from those representing different parts of the UK and crown dependencies; those representing different religion and belief groups; and those with expertise in human rights.

¹ See PQs by Chris Williamson MP:

- <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-04/117291/>
- <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-04/117292/>
- <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/124090/>