



Surely marriage is just a private decision, nothing to do with the government?

That seems to be the usual attitude in Scotland, but it's hard to understand why.

The benefits associated with marriage are huge and wide ranging, for couples, their children, and wider society.

In fact, many problems that the government seeks to address are closely linked to relationship breakdown, and marriage is the best means we've got of maximising family stability. Married couples are far more likely to stay together than unmarried couples.

Some of the benefits of marriage for married couples:

- A far better chance of staying together
- Better physical and mental health
- Higher levels of happiness
- Lower risk of poverty

For children of married parents:

- All of the above including a better chance of a stable relationship themselves in the future
- Higher educational attainment
- Lower crime rates
- Less drug and alcohol abuse
- Less young, promiscuous and risky sexual behaviour

These effects make marriage a powerful preventative measure to many of the most serious problems facing our society.

Prevention is better than cure.

Family instability is a key factor driving inequality, poverty, disadvantage and generational social problems. A stronger culture of marriage would transform the lives of many, for the better.

Marriage could be encouraged through the tax and benefits system. Schools could teach the facts about marriage. Politicians could use their platform to promote a culture of marriage. The costs would be modest but the savings to the taxpayer could be massive.

However, this isn't about money, ultimately. It's about enhancing the wellbeing of children, adults and wider society in Scotland.

That's what we think politics is all about. That's why we promote marriage.



Our Marriage Policy

We promote marriage as the best foundation for stable family life, benefitting adults, children and wider society.

The current Holyrood parties regard the prevalence of family breakdown as beyond their influence and remit. They focus instead on “picking up the pieces” by supporting those adversely affected, particularly children. This is laudable, but the harms are often irremediable. Only the Scottish Family Party seeks to get to the heart of the matter and reduce family breakdown.

Schools should teach the facts about marriage and its rationale. The tax and benefits system should recognise and incentivise marriage, ensuring that it is never penalised. SFP MSPs would exercise cultural leadership by promoting marriage in the media, the debating chamber and through special events.

Steps to make the legal process of divorce easier undermine the status of marriage as a solemn, lifelong commitment.

The introduction of civil partnerships for heterosexual couples will further undermine the culture of marriage by offering an alternative that does not include a vow of sexual fidelity. We will oppose any further attempts by the state to redefine marriage, such as to include multi-partner or incestuous relationships.

Marriage and relationship counselling should be provided and funded to aid relationship stability.

Filling the Void in Scottish Politics

The fundamental values that underpin our society are being eroded. We present a better vision for the future of Scotland.

We offer fresh perspectives that could help solve deeply ingrained problems, and policies that could enable people of all ages to flourish as they pursue their path through life.

Our foundational philosophy is quite distinct from the current Holyrood parties.

We seek to bring common sense, wisdom, justice, truth, decency, integrity and virtue into political debate and, ultimately, into the Scottish Parliament.

Please join us in making our dream a reality. You can become a member through our website. We'd value your support and we'd love to meet you.



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What's Marriage got to do with Politics?



**Scottish
Family Party**