



"Marriage should be honoured by all"

Hebrews 13:4

God instituted marriage for the benefit of couples, their children, and wider society. We promote it for the same reasons.

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

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.

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.

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. Our unique Wedding Box policy would give a boost to newly weds.

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.



Scotland needs a strong culture of marriage.

The vital social institution of marriage has existed throughout history as a means to formalise a committed and sexually exclusive relationship between a man and a woman. This legal bond and public promise are powerful factors in sustaining such a relationship, providing partners with stability and security. However, children are the main beneficiaries: children of married parents tend to flourish and excel on every measurable outcome. The commitment of marriage helps ensure that a child benefits from the distinct and complementary parenting of their mother and father, a male and female role model in the family home, and the sense of identity that naturally flows from relatedness.

It is apparent that same-sex relationships cannot fully embody these ideals, so we do not believe that the state should formalise such relationships as marriages. We believe that marriage exists primarily to give children what they need, rather than to fulfil the wishes of adults.

We will oppose any further attempts to redefine marriage, such as to include multi-partner, temporary, non-exclusive or incestuous relationships.

Care about people? Promote marriage!

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.

God has shared his wisdom about marriage with us, so we should share it with our nation. This is not being “judgemental” or “imposing our values”. It is promoting a structure for relationships that benefits everyone.

We promote marriage because we care about people.

The Scottish Family Party is not a Christian party. It is a party with many policies that align with Biblical principles. While this leaflet is written for Christians in particular, we commend our policies to people of all religious faiths and none and welcome all who share our values.

"a man will... be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh, so they are no longer two, but one flesh"

Matthew 19:4-6



**Scottish
Family Party**