

5. What do I ask my MP when I contact him/her?

You should ask for an appointment to meet your MP in the constituency where you live.

6. Should I go in a group or on my own?

A small group of people is best. A group can put forward a range of points in favour of real marriage during the meeting. But you are perfectly entitled to ask to see the MP on your own.

7. Can more than one group meet and lobby my MP?

Yes. We want lots of groups in your constituency to meet and lobby the MP. This includes groups from different churches and other organisations with which you may be in touch. Please encourage them to do this, particularly if the MP is in favour of same-sex marriage.

8. What exactly is "lobbying"??

It is simply explaining your views to your MP and asking him/her to support them. Everyone has the right to lobby their MP. Lobbying MPs is an ancient and valued freedom of all Her Majesty's subjects. Discussion should be polite at all times, but everyone is free to express his or her views.

9. Is it worth meeting and lobbying my MP if I already know his/her views on same-sex marriage?

Yes. It is important that those MPs who oppose same-sex marriage are supported and can say publicly that their constituents have shown their support for his/her stand. Please try to get a photograph of your group with the MP to send to SPUC - clear this with your MP beforehand.

MPs who support redefining marriage should also be lobbied so that they know the strength of feeling in their constituency. And also so that they cannot claim that they have had no response on the issue.

If your MP is undecided on this issue, you should get other groups to lobby him/her. In addition try to get as many people as possible to write to him/her.

Wherever your MP stands on this, please let us know at SPUC. See point 11 below.

10. What do I say to my MP?

Please use the briefing Q & A document which accompanies this sheet. Here we have set out some of the main points for people to use when putting forward the case against same-sex marriage.

There are also more detailed documents on the SPUC website. Click on 'Campaigns' at the top of the SPUC home page and you will find further reading there.

Take some time to think through the points you would like to raise with your MP so that you can put arguments clearly and confidently.

The key question to ask your MP is:

Will you vote against redefining marriage?

11. What should I do after my meeting?

After your meeting please send a brief report of your meeting to SPUC. This is important as we need to build up a picture of which way MPs will vote on this critical issue.

You can write to: Katherine Hampton, SPUC, 3 Whitacre Mews, London SE11 4AB or email katherinehampton@spuc.org.uk

Meet and Lobby Your MP

A step-by-step guide

1. Why is SPUC asking people to meet and lobby* their MP? (see explanation of the term "lobby" in point 8 below).

This is the next important step in defending real marriage. Many people have already signed the Coalition 4 Marriage (C4M) petition opposing same-sex marriage, and contributed to the government consultation. Many have also written to their MP asking him/her to vote against same-sex marriage. We are very grateful to everyone who has helped in these ways.

Now we need as many people as possible to meet their MP and ask him/her in person to uphold real marriage.

2. Who should take part in this?

Everybody. We hope that people from every constituency in England and Wales will take part, so that every MP is lobbied.

Please remember you should only lobby your own MP. Your MP represents his or her own constituents in Parliament. People below voting age can lobby, but we recommend that this issue be addressed by those aged 16+. Please encourage your friends and relatives in other constituencies to meet and lobby their own MP.

3. When and where should I meet my MP?

You should arrange to meet your MP as soon as possible. You should ask to meet your MP in the constituency. We are not asking people to travel to London to meet

their MP in Westminster (unless that is more convenient for you, e.g. because you live or work in London).

4. Who is my MP and where do I contact him/her?

You can find out who your MP is by:

- ◆ Telephoning SPUC on 020 7091 7091. Ask to speak to Katherine Hampton **OR**
- ◆ Visiting the SPUC website: www.spuc.org.uk. Click on 'Campaigns' at the top of the pages and then scroll down to the bottom of the campaign page where you will find a section called: 'Contacting your MP and members of the House of Lords'. In that paragraph there is a link – **Contact your MP** – click on that and you will reach a page which enables you to find out who your MP is.

You can contact your MP by:

- ◆ Writing to your MP at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA **OR**
- ◆ Telephoning your MP by calling the House of Commons switchboard: 020 7219 3000 **OR**
- ◆ Emailing your MP. You can find out your MP's email address by calling the number above or going to your MP's website.
- ◆ Contacting your MP at his or her local constituency office. (Yellow pages or your MP's website may have this number.)



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