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Family, Marriage and Cultural Confusion

The Scottish Parliament has passed legislation to redefine marriage. Amidst triumphalistic scenes campaigners in the public gallery applauded and cheered the vote with MSPs returning their applause. Such jubilation has never previously been permitted in the Parliament.

No amendments to protect those who disagree with same-sex marriage were accepted by the politicians and the law now implements the view that sex is not relevant in marriage. This is the core of a movement based on so-called ‘gender theory’ and its consequences will unfold as the principle is increasingly applied in society. For example a manager from a high profile and government funded children’s group affirmed on radio recently that it is a stereotype to expect mothers to be women or fathers to be men. This is an ideological struggle which is particularly playing out in European institutions with a variety of initiatives arising in the European Parliament such as the approved Lunacek Report which proposes a radical support for “LGBTI people” (i.e. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersexual) leading to calls for a myriad of rights and privileges including access to IVF for single lesbian woman and State recognition of “rainbow families” including legal recognition that children can have more than two parents. This seems to be part and parcel of a broader malaise which also incorporates more radical demands for abortion on demand and for promotion of abortion in schools as in the Estrela report. It includes a recommendation that “as a human rights and public health concern, high-quality abortion services should be made legal, safe, and accessible to all within the public health systems”. That report does identify some genuine social concerns such as female genital mutilation and domestic violence. The Scottish government reported more than 60,000 incidents of domestic abuse last year with women most likely to be the victims. Also, the Royal College of General Practitioners recently reported the level of domestic violence perpetrated on men in same-sex relationships as reaching 49% compared with 17% for men in general; whereas 80% of those identifying themselves as transsexual report suffering domestic abuse from a partner. The new ideology which states that gender makes no difference to people is hard to square with reality, so efforts to impose the view will ultimately end in failure.