**MEDIA RELEASE**

***Union Civile* & Equality – “Are you IN?”**

**“Are you IN?” is a question equality charity Liberate is asking islanders in Guernsey today, as it launches a campaign in favour of proposed changes to Guernsey marriage laws through the introduction of “Union Civile” legislation.**

Liberate which was formed in February 2014, has already campaigned successfully for equal marriage in Jersey by the end of 2017 and it does not want Guernsey to be left behind:

“*Guernsey tries to promote itself as a modern, forward looking society in many ways*” said Liberate Chair, Martin Gavet.

“*However, it sadly lags far behind many other jurisdictions when it comes to being a fair and equal society. This is our chance as an island to help put this right by supporting the Policy Council’s proposition to introduce Union Civile legislation. It is not just about marriage equality - it is about Guernsey being a fair and equal island, which values each and everyone of its citizens.* *Our* ***We’re IN******campaign*** *is a chance for everyone who believes in equality to get involved!”*

Over the coming 6-weeks Liberate will be filming and publishing a series of videos and interviews as part of the campaign, as well as providing other information around Union Civile including downloadable leaflets explaining what it is all about, posters, flyers and stickers. These will be available through Liberate’s social media pages on Facebook, through Twitter and its website www.liberate.gg/unioncivile.

Ellie Jones, Vice Chair of Liberate commented:

“Union Civile is paving the way for people to have the wedding they want, where they want, with the person they love”.

The Union Civile consultation can be completed online or downloaded at:

[www.gov.gg/unioncivile](http://www.gov.gg/unioncivile)

1 June 2015

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**Note for editors**

**Frequently asked questions:**

1. **Is Union Civile another name for civil partnership?**

No. Liberate would not be supporting Union Civile if it was the same as civil partnership. Union Civile will replace the existing and what are widely regarded to be outdated marriage laws on the island, with a single fair system, where everyone is treated the same when it comes to being wed.

1. **How will it work?**

Union Civile is simply the legal contract between two people who want to affirm their love for each other through a legally binding contract or union. It will work in much the same way as marriage currently does. The main difference is that Union Civile will also extend to same-sex couples. It does not discriminate about who you are or who you love.

1. **Where will I be able to get married?**

Union Civiles will be able to take place in a church as part of a service or at the Greffe. It may also extend to other areas such as your home, or a favourite beach, park or garden, so long as the celebrant who conducts the ceremony is legally registered to conduct civil unions.

If you are a same sex couple who want to have their union blessed, then it will depend on whether your faith allows it. Union Civile will not force faith groups to marry same sex couples, but we hope that in time most faiths will accept people for who they love and bless that commitment to each other.

**Interviews**

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