



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 6<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2010**

## **Cameron and Balls agree in Marriage Week!**

Both David Cameron and Ed Balls have welcomed Marriage Week UK (Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2010), and its theme of “Celebrating Commitment”.

David Cameron says:

"I am delighted to welcome this year's Marriage Week.

You are absolutely right to emphasise the importance of commitment in our relationships. Commitment is a core value for society. And I know from my own experience that marriage is an important way to demonstrate that commitment one to another - and benefit from it – especially in the context of family life.

Government has an important role in supporting families as they deal with the different pressures they face. But in fact we can all play a part in creating a society which values commitment. So I would like to wish Marriage Week well as you look to do your bit to help achieve that goal".

Children's Secretary Ed Balls says:

“The Government supports couples who choose to get married; for many families marriage offers the best environment in which to raise children, and it remains the choice of the majority of people in Britain. I am very pleased to be married – to Yvette Cooper, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions – but I also believe that marriage is a personal and private decision for responsible adults, with which politicians should not interfere. We are committed to supporting all families.”

Commenting on the start of Marriage Week 2010, Dave Percival, Coordinator of Marriage week commented:

“Marriage remains the aspiration for the vast majority of people – and most of us make a success of it, staying married for life. Research shows that at the foundation of this success and stability lies a clear commitment to the relationship, both in private action and in public declaration through the ceremony of marriage. Marriage week exists to encourage everyone to celebrate and support marriage in this country and around the world. It's great that whilst they may differ on how to support marriage, all the main parties are agreed that stable family life matters.”

Research carried out by Prof Scott Stanley of Denver University has clearly demonstrated that 'getting married' challenges the individuals to make a clear decision about the relationship, and from this decision flow the behaviours and attitudes which are likely to underpin long term stable relationships. Men in particular need to reach a clear point of decision to truly commit.

This year Marriage Week is encouraging couples to simply sit down and watch a movie together, either at home, or with friends, that challenges them about their own relationship, and to then chat together about the issues raised.

Marriage Week exists to raise the awareness of all in UK of the considerable social importance of marriage to society, and to encourage married couples everywhere to celebrate their commitment to each other.

**ENDS**

## Notes for Editors

[Marriage Week UK](#) celebrates the diversity and vibrancy of marriage as the basis for family life in the UK. It is timed to include Valentine's Day (8th –14th Feb 2010) and has been held every year since 1997.

For further information contact Dave Percival, coordinator of Marriage Week UK, and founder of [www.2-in-2-1.co.uk](http://www.2-in-2-1.co.uk) . Tel: 07802 660524; email: [dave@2-in-2-1.co.uk](mailto:dave@2-in-2-1.co.uk)