



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**MINISTRY OF EQUALITY, SOCIAL SERVICES & THE ELDERLY**  
14 GOVERNOR'S PARADE  
GIBRALTAR

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FIRST CIVIL PARTNERSHIP CEREMONY**

Today sees the first civil partnership ceremony being celebrated.

Legislation which allows couples to enter into a civil partnership was passed in Parliament earlier this year. This new law allows people of the same sex to formally register their relationships. Civil partnerships are also available to opposite sex couples.

To commemorate this historic occasion Government will be flying the 'rainbow flag' from No 6 Convent Place, this flag was designed by the Equality Rights Group and represents diversity.

Commenting on the matter, Samantha Sacramento, Minister for Equality and Social Services stated 'I am truly delighted that people of the same sex finally have the opportunity to have their relationships recognised in the eyes of the law. It is also very fitting that the first couple who are making history today by entering into a civil partnership are the same people who made history years ago by challenging the establishment in asserting their rights to a joint Government tenancy. To take on such a challenge as individuals can't have been easy but it was important that they did so as they succeeded in changing government policy.'

**Ends**

**Note to Editors:** The ceremony will take place at the Registry Office at 4pm today. The Chief Minister and Minister for Equality have been invited by the couple to attend.