



## **Vote NO to Gay Marriage and YES to Civil Partnerships**

Pink Weddings LLC and its sister companies in the UK have fought hard for 6 years for Equality and same-sex couples' rights. In December 2005, the Civil Partnership Act became a reality and couples across the United Kingdom were able to register their Civil Partnership and finally gained equal legal rights and responsibilities.

A Civil Partnership gives lesbian and gay couples the same legal rights as opposite-sex couples without the use of the word "Marriage" and separate from any religious attachments that have been the issue preventing equality across the USA.

Gino Meriano, Founder of the Pink Weddings™ Group and gay rights campaigner for same-sex couples says "A Civil Partnership is a legally binding contract between two people and one that should not be taken lightly. This allows our community the same rights as opposite-sex couples without the need for us to call it a marriage".

Gino Meriano has teamed up with Philip Cotton from UnifiedVoice to further develop the campaign for public support. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December\* 2008 Meriano and Cotton will set into motion their plans for a new proposition for the introduction of Civil Partnerships in the State of Arizona.

Philip Cotton Founder of UnifiedVoice says "I'm not someone that promotes same-sex marriage, but I do believe in Civil Partnerships. I don't think this should inhibit your core beliefs about what marriage is. I think that most Americans' marriage and faith are strong enough to afford every American these basic civil rights."

Elton John said, "I don't want to be married. I'm very happy with a Civil Partnership. If gay people want to get married, or get together, they should have a Civil Partnership". Elton John, who cemented his relationship with David Furnish in 2005 continues "The word marriage, I think, puts a lot of people off".



Elton believes gay people should be happy with civil partnerships because it gives them the same legal rights as straight couples.

Meriano continues "It's time for change, this new prop will give same-sex couples the legal rights they have wanted for years and the chance to finally be accepted and treated as equal in the eyes of the law. Even Senator John McCain stated that we as the "people" can enter into a legal agreement".

END

### **Notes to press**

Information:

\* 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005 was an important day in the UK, this being when Civil Partnerships became law

Press calls to

**Gino Meriano**

UK : 07971 277609

USA : 480-319-1115

**Philip Cotton**

US: 760-554-4676

### **Pink Weddings: the group**

*Pink Weddings LLC*

The group launch into the USA with its new office in Arizona

[www.pinkweddings.us](http://www.pinkweddings.us)

*Pink Weddings Ltd*

Celebrating 6 years of gay wedding planning and campaigning for same-sex couples

[www.pinkweddings.biz](http://www.pinkweddings.biz)

*The Gay Wedding Show Ltd*

Celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> year in Civil Partnerships Expos

[www.gayweddingshow.co.uk](http://www.gayweddingshow.co.uk)

### **UnifiedVoice**

Founded in the 2008 by Philip A. Cotton, UV's mission is to help all LGBT Americans with achieving the basic rights of life. The right to have a Civil Partnership is a leading factor in the Creation of UV and we believe that here and now is the "time for Change". We make a promise to all LGBT Americans that we will fight for your right to have equal rights.

[www.unifiedvoice.org](http://www.unifiedvoice.org)