

STATEMENT

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Statement by Governor of The Virgin Islands, Mr Daniel Pruce

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I welcome the Premier's recent public comments indicating that the Government of the Virgin Islands is working towards the introduction of civil partnerships to provide legal recognition for same-sex couples.

This issue is about complying with international law. About upholding the constitution. And most importantly, about respecting the rights of all, regardless of sexual orientation.

I am aware that this is an issue on which people hold strong and deeply felt views. However, I encourage everyone to approach this conversation with respect, compassion and an understanding that behind this issue are real people and families – fellow members of our community.

The Virgin Islands has long been a community built on mutual respect, tolerance and the rule of law. It is important that, as this debate continues, it reflects those values. No one should face discrimination or hostility because of who they are or who they love.

I look forward to engaging further with the Government of the Virgin Islands on this important issue, and my Office stands ready to support timely progress to update the law so that it upholds human rights and reflects the Constitution's protections for all.

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