

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**SUBMISSION FROM JASPER KEMP**

This bill is a complete violation of a basic human right: the right to free speech. By making it illegal to say certain things, you are implementing the same kind of restrictions used by so many of the authoritarian, fascist regimes that we as a society are - I'd hope - all in agreement are terrible.

While it's probably not a great use of your free speech to say the any of the kind of things covered in this bill, it's still free speech, and because we all have free speech - or at least we should - we can tell those who say these things why they are wrong and, hopefully, change their views on saying these things.

By implementing a bill such as this, which forcefully restricts what people can and can't say, and even directly assumes what a person's intent is in saying one of these things, you will do nothing but further spur people to gravitate towards the ideas that you clearly seem to be against. If you want to change someone's mind on something, then you need to treat them like an actual human being, and giving them the right to freely speak their mind however they want is a good way to do that.

This bill is not only a violation of a basic human right, but it is also just begging for a corrupt, authoritarian government to abuse it to oppress the people for their own ends, so I urge you, please, please, do not pass this bill. For the good of all of Scotland, please do not pass such a bill.

Jasper Kemp  
[07 July 2020]