

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ALAN ROBERTS

I am very concerned about what I'm hearing from friends, family and in the media. What on Earth is the Scottish Government thinking about. The implications of this proposed bill is that free speech will be curtailed. Religious belief will become un pc and a crime. Stand up comedians will no longer be able to perform. Ordinary people's opinions and the ability to express them will be curtailed. The words 'intended' and 'likely' are ominous. This is going to have a detrimental effect on free speech with many people playing it safe and keeping quiet rather than expressing any opinion or being able to discuss and debate.

Of course the law will be unenforceable as the police won't have the time or inclination to bring prosecutions. Unfortunately there will be people who will deliberately test this law and bring complaints in order to attack those they are intolerant of. This will possibly lead to a more divisive and hateful society. Look at what's already happening in the U.K.

This daft law, if passed, will damage the reputation of your government for competence. At a time where the Scottish Government are benefitting from the way they are handling the health crisis I would have thought the Government would want to capitalise on this however this is going to have a negative effect on your reputation for thoroughness and competence. I personally know several people who would be , who are, natural supporters of the SNP and of Independence and will not give their vote to the SNP because of this. I myself usually, almost always vote for SNP but now won't be able to should this Bill be passed.

While I'm on I'd like to also express my concerns at the dental health crisis that the Scottish Government are presiding over. I would also like to express my disgust at the way the immoral Arms Industry is being accommodated and encouraged in this country.

Alan Roberts
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