

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM JUSTIN THOMAS**

As a resident of Scotland I am proud to hold dear the values handed to me by those that came before me. Amongst my most treasured gifts is liberty and a right to have a voice. Scots have always been accustomed to speaking their mind and laying our cards on the table. We always have done and we should be allowed to do so in future.

I find the propositions of this Hate bill to be horrific. At a time when the Scottish Government is showing itself as a world leader, i am appauld that it allows this suggested piece of legislation to even be considered.

This bill panders to a minority few and is incredibly misguided. In the real world, for those outside of politics, this would cause so much more harm than good. This isn't equality in any way, shape or form but will help to further hatred and create new battles as our right to be who we are and believe what we wish is ripped away. I cannot believe that the Scottish Government would actually allow the content of this dangerous paper be considered. Balance is and always will be essential. In writing this mail to you, I am now considering that if this bill was passed, this appeal would be considered 'hateful' and I would be at risk of losing so much. Is that what we want for Scotland?

I urge you to scrap this paper and focus on the real world, not ideals or fantasy lands.

Scrap this proposal before it causes incredible damage to our country.

Justin Thomas  
18 July 2020