

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM REV. MAURICE ROBERTS

I wish as a retired Christian minister in Scotland to urge you not to criminalise courteous speech which disapproves of sexual confusion. The Bible which for Christians in Scotland has been the great religious text book over many centuries gives no permission for persons of one sex to profess to be of the other sex. The Bible tells us very clearly that God disapproves of homosexual practices. If you introduce a law which criminalizes what the Bible teaches the effect will be to call down God's judgement on our beloved land as well as to punish the innocent. Such a Hate Law would criminalise law-abiding and upright members of our country whose consciences are faith-bound to believe the sacred Bible as God's inspired Word.

Freedom of speech is vital to a healthy society. Scotland has for centuries taken a Biblical view of sexuality. To alter this position by criminalizing those members of our country who hold to a Biblical view of sexuality will be to destroy the moral basis upon which our beloved land has so much rested over many centuries

I write with respect and out of love for the Christian faith and for the many Christian churches of our privileged country. In so writing I seek also to preserve decency, courtesy and good morality in the land which we love.

Maurice Roberts (Rev).
18 July 2020