

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM N DUNCAN**

To the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee regarding the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland Bill)

My view is that, assuming the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill becomes law, it should provide the following exemption: if a minister or preacher of the Church of Scotland is accused of a hate crime by something said in a sermon, and it becomes evident that what he allegedly said as a hate crime was in accord with the spirit and letter of the Church of Scotland's doctrinal standards (the Confession of Faith) the charge should be disallowed. The same exception should be there for any members of the same Church who give voice to the teachings of the Confession of Faith in which they are instructed.

I add that the Confession of Faith agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster with assistance of Commissioners from the Church of Scotland was approved by the General Assembly, 1647, and ratified and established by Act of Parliament, 1649 and 1690, as the public and avowed Confession of the Church of Scotland.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my view

N Duncan  
18 July 2020