

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM JAMES ASHPOOL**

Hello, to whomever is reading this email.

I am writing this email with worry as to the content of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill.

This bill is chilling. Not suitable in a democracy or in any country where freedom of speech is considered a civil right, and especially not for equal treatment under the law is thought of as paramount for any justice system. this bill now solidifies unequal treatment within the justice system of this country. Not only that, but instead of using objective fact and reason, only the subjective is being taken into account for the prosecution and arrest of hate crime, whether or not you feel or a policeman feels that a crime of language has been committed. Not only do I disagree that any speech should be illegal, the absolute danger of making certain parts of any population oppressed by laws designed to segregate communities on the basis of skin colour or gender can only lead to one outcome and it is not one that you nor I would ever want. I urge the Parliament of Scotland to reject this bill overwhelmingly. Do not place in the law different responses to "crimes" based upon one's race, gender, or ethnicity. In a modern day just society discriminating against people on these grounds is abhorrent, evil and entirely backward, no matter to whom it is being done.

Thank you very much for reading this email, I only hope that it does not fall on deaf ears.

- James Ashpool

James Ashpool  
20 July 2020