

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM GRAEME GERRARD**

Dear Sir or Madam

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill.

In reply to question 6, I would like to make the following submission:

1. No new law is required as existing criminal law already covers persons involved in threatening or abusive behaviour.
2. The proposed changes to the law would threaten the individual's right to freedom of speech. Just because a third party does not agree with our point of view does not mean that we are stirring up hatred against them.
3. As a Christian who passionately believes that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of mankind and that the Holy Bible is the inerrant Word of God, which amongst many other things states that homosexuality is a perversion leading to depravity, does this mean that because I believe this is the truth, that somehow I am stirring up hatred amongst the community in which I live? Surely every person in Scotland and the United Kingdom has the right to their own beliefs.
4. Changing the law would give great power to opponents to silence people for fear of prosecution. This is unacceptable and denies people their human right.

Yours sincerely

Graeme A. Gerrard  
19 July 2020