

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM JACKIE JONES**

understand that you are asking for views on the proposed Hate Crime and Public Order(Scotland) Bill. I am concerned that Part 2 of the Bill plans to introduce a new offence of stirring up hatred. I believe this is a threat to freedom of speech.

I believe Police Scotland has also said that free speech clauses are necessary to keep them from being inundated with vexatious reports.

Christians who believe in the Bible and simply quote from it could also be prosecuted, as conduct need not be threatening or intended to stir up hatred for an offence to be committed, and a person who disagrees with the Bible could claim that is hatred to even quote from it.

I think many others including from secular groups are opposed to this Bill, as although they might not agree with my views on the Bible they respect my right to hold my view and also they can see how this Bill can be used to shut down intelligent debate on other topics too.

So please think again and don't take Scotland down the road to a 1984 scenario where we all must 'group think and speak' for fear of prosecution, but allow for intelligent debate on these topics as people can also change their minds.( Which is happening regarding giving powerful hormones to children confused about their sex)

Thank you

Jackie Jones  
19 July 2020