

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM PATRICIA LOMAX

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the above, I think this is a good bill but please ensure that there are secure safeguards in place so that no-one is condemned for stating or even arguing what they hold as right or wrong (with no intention to stir up hatred).

As far as literature is concerned, I don't know about the Koran but the Bible certainly indicates for example that homosexual behaviour is wrong while encouraging loving the one who is homosexually orientated, so certainly not stirring up hate - though some would perhaps want to construe it that way. Please make sure that is protected properly and that Christians are free to give away Bibles or teach what it says.

The blasphemy law has obviously been greatly abused in the past but I don't think it should be abolished. Scotland would do well to have a law against anything that speaks offensively against God or Jesus Christ or portrays Him in an offensive manner. A God fearing nation will be blessed.

Patricia Lomax
19 July 2020