

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM C. A. L. SEYMOUR

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing about the new Hate Crimes and Public Order (Scotland) Bill which has been put forward.

I am not professing to be knowledgeable in all aspects of the lingo or wording but many of the changes look like they will suppress our rights even more than they already have. I for one do not bow down to all laws that don't allow us as people to have an opinion, or to be individuals with minds and thoughts that are rational. We do not want to hurt or cause people offence but if my beliefs or lifestyle do not fit or upset someone, it then can be a hate crime.

I believe this is not Freedom, dare I say a dictatorship, if we don't agree, conform or agree with the majority. We have the risk of being imprisoned for disagreeing. We should be able to debate and share different opinions without fear of being jailed for them. Since when have we as people become so sensitive, everyone has become a victim if you don't agree with them. This is sad, differences, beliefs, cultures should not be suppressed, we should all have a right to have a view, not everyone agrees, this is not hate it is just different.

The criminal law more than covers abusive behaviour, fear or alarm it does not need to be pushed on any harder. Even in the privacy of your own homes we could cause hate, how absurd, we need to have freedom in our own homes and outwith.

As a Christian our freedom to speak is paramount to our faith and biblically Our Lord Jesus Christ instructs us to speak the Truth from his Word so the new laws would make our faith break the law so how is this the freedom I believe our country has fought for over many years.

The majority of people do not want to cause hate, sometimes we say something which was not intended to be abusive or to stir up hate, I feel these New Orders are unfair and unnecessary, people need to be protected not smothered and people need Freedom Of Speech not suppression!

Please do not take our rights away to express and teach other new or better ways to live.

Mark 16:15

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mrs. C. A. L. Seymour
21 July 2020