

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ROSEMARIE SHAIRP

Too many vague or loose terms in this Bill. There will be difficulty in interpretation ,and also very easy to be accused of stirring up hatred when there was no intention to do so.

Religious belief and church services must be protected. Open debate between people with different opinions is important. The Bible and Bible teaching, as it is open for all to listen to, must be protected from those who don't agree with it.

I think there should be extreme caution before adding hate crimes to hate crimes. This kind of language is likely to lead to looking for another tool to use against people that you disagree with. Far more beneficial to encourage kind, courteous generous language particularly with those with whom we disagree.

Free speech regarding sexual orientation, sexuality and same sex marriage must be protected.

Don't give the police masses of petty arguments to sort out, when they need all their resources to protect us all from violent criminals and terrorists.

Thank you for considering these points

Rosemarie Shairp
20 July 2020