

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM JAMIE TAYLOR

Having just read this new bill I am genuinely disturbed. I'm only 17 and yet even I can see the chilling undertones to this bill, restriction of free speech and punishment for having the wrong opinions. I'm not some racist idiot looking for an excuse to spew filth but arresting people for speech is disturbingly authoritarian and not the Scotland that I want to grow up in. I love Scotland and I love the SNP but I cannot and I will not stand by without doing anything while you pass laws that restrict the Scottish people's freedoms. The Scotland that I love should be libertarian and everyone should be allowed to express their opinions and everyone should be free to challenge them to debate. Discourse must not be restricted in our country. Laws should not be made to protect people's feelings as "insult", "offence" and "hatred" are individual emotions and causing someone to feel they should not be punishable by up to 7 years in prison.

In my closing words I'll say this. Currently I despair for the future of Scotland. When I turn 18 who am I to vote for? The Tories don't care about us, neither do Corbyn's lot. The SNP are Scotland's only choice but I can't bring myself to vote for such an authoritarian party.

Please change,

Jamie Taylor
20 July 2020