

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM REV WILFRED WEALE

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a minister of the gospel I write to express my concern at the threat to freedom of speech by the proposed Hate Crime Bill.

What especially concerns me is the plan to introduce a new offence of stirring up hatred. This offence could unwittingly be committed by someone who did not intend to do this, or even realise that what he or she said could be considered offensive. There are also many things in the Bible that preachers are duty bound to preach. For example the Bible clearly states that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour. It also states that homosexual unions are sinful, as indeed are heterosexual unions where couples are not married. These and many other things are clearly stated in the Bible and while it ought never to be our intention to cause offence by stating them yet we are duty bound to do so.

Free speech is vital in society, so that while I would disagree with the views put forward by other religious bodies and those with moral views which I do not hold, I sincerely believe that they should have the right to express them.

When one considers the situation in countries like Pakistan, North Korea, China and others, one realises the many reasons for thankfulness that we have in our land where we are free to express our views and especially to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, a privilege that is denied in not a few countries around the world.

I therefore plead with you not to permit this Hate Crime Bill to be imposed on the people of Scotland.

I am,

Yours sincerely,
(Rev) Wilfred Weale

Rev Wilfred Weale
20 July 2020