

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM NORMAN WRIGHT

Dear Sir,

I write concerning the above proposed Bill.

As a pastor of a local Christian Church I am very alarmed at the complaints from minority groups within Scotland which are persuading our local authorities and government departments to close down open debate, to stifle and oppose genuine religious faith and expression plainly because of the minority group's opposing ideology.

I am also very concerned that if we have a faith and ideology that others may not accept then we could be wrongly accused of stirring up hatred.

This Bill could criminalise speech merely because it is deemed offensive by a certain person or a certain group.

A free society must protect vigorous debate, the right to have different opinions and beliefs without it being misinterpreted as hatred.

The fact that people may be offended should not be equated to hatred.

For Example our Government must protect the right to be able to disagree on moral issues and on sexual lifestyles.

Yours faithfully,

Norman Wright

Norman Wright
19 July 2020