

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM GEORGE AND MAUREEN BROWN

MY WIFE AND I WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLWING COMMENT ON THE ABOVE.

We are unhappy that the Bill so comprehensively covers just about everything as to cloud the main issue(s).

We have no desire to hate anyone and certainly do not intend to convey hatred to anyone by making a comment or statement that seems innocuous enough to us but could get caught up in someone's feelings that it comes over to them as abusive.

We accept the speech of others when they are talking with deep passion and emotion as well as when it is delivered in a frank and straightforward unheated fashion.

We believe we have a right to challenge any or all of the content of these deliveries and would never dream of being offensive, even if robust in response.

It seems to us that the proposed Bill gives us precious few protections against a malevolent complaint of 'hurt', 'abuse' or any similar sentiment and would ask that all reference to such subjective complaint is thoroughly removed from the Bill.

George and Maureen Brown
20 July 2020