

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM DAVID CAMPBELL

To the justice committee regarding. Hate Crime Bill

I would like to respond to the upcoming hate crime bill. Obviously there is a need to protect the vulnerable and there are many laws that do this.

My concerns are mainly about question 6 regarding stirring up hatred which is a very vague question and could be done unwittingly by someone who did not intend to offend by saying perfectly reasonable words but someone could consider abusive.

Some people could use religious matters where vigorous debate could be viewed as abusive we as a free society should have these freedoms protected.

Many people have different views and should be able to express their views freely .

Existing laws should be able to deal with anybody that has obvious views that stir up hatred.

There is a difference between opinions, and beliefs, and stirring up hatred.

People could use these new laws on views and opinions to shut down other people's views and opinions.

I am also concerned that people with deep religious convictions could be criminalised by people who do not adhere or agree with what is being taught by scriptures etc.

The Law should be that if you are stirring up hatred yes there should be Laws to protect.

But not if you are trying to freely express your views and opinions that others might disagree with.

I Am Deeply concerned about this legislation and the repercussions of making bad Laws and closing down people's freedoms done by politicallly motivated complaints.

This piece of Law must be done in a proper manner

Yours sincerely

David Campbell
20 July 2020