

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ERIC CAMPBELL

Regarding the proposed new offence of “stirring up of hatred” I would like to make the following comments:

--- People can have sincerely and firmly held views on religion as well as moral and ethical issues. Some others who oppose biblical truth claim that disagreement with their views constitutes hatred and would welcome any legal provision which would make it easier to silence Christian voices.

--- Existing criminal law already provides safeguards against threatening or abusive behaviour and new legislation is not required.

--- To include the word “likely to stir up hatred” is dangerous and any legislation should be framed to cover only situations where the action is intentional and deliberate.

--- Any legislation covering “stirring up hatred” should protect those who hold a variety of views on issues such as same-sex marriage and transgender identity.

--- This proposed change to the law in Scotland represents a serious threat to freedom of speech, expression, debate and conscience.

Eric Campbell
20 July 2020