

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**SUBMISSION FROM ADAM HAMILTON**

The proposal to make a crime of "stirring up hatred" is fundamentally flawed. If I declare that your statement of position X will engender hatred in me then you will be guilty of a crime if you declare position X. This is incompatible with freedom of speech. It allows anyone to suppress views that they dislike. There must be provision for intent to cause harm or clear incitement to criminal acts. The law cannot be subject to emotional reactions.

Adam Hamilton  
20 July 2020