

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM DOROTHE KAUFMANN**

Re: Question 6

*6. Do you have views on the merits of Part 2 of the Bill and the plans to introduce a new offence of stirring up of hatred?*

Dear Committee,

I appreciate the desire to introduce Bills in order to keep up to date with the rapidly changing culture of our country. However – I believe it would be a retrograde step to silence legitimate debate on points of view on sexuality, transgender identity and religion. Lord Bracadale’s independent review in 2017-18 of Hate crime in Scotland revealed that over 90 per cent of respondents to the review’s public consultation were opposed to new hate crimes. The Bill does not give the protection to free speech that Lord Bracadale appeared to recommend. Denying people the right to free speech to express their firmly held beliefs would go against the plurality of our society. My view of the undesirability of introducing a new offence of stirring up of hatred is shared by nearly everyone I know in the country.

Yours respectfully

Dorothe Kaufmann  
21 July 2020