

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM GRANT BALLANTYNE

This is a charter for professional victims, a weapon for the perpetually offended to control and cull views they do not like. I am astonished that the Scottish political establishment think legislation like this deserves attention and priority.

The Bill picks out for protection a listed group of victims - in a tour de force of appalling virtue-signalling, these groups are handed a tool to suppress debate and victimise any speech or behaviour that suits them on the vague grounds that this speech or behaviour amounts to "abuse".

Look at the SNP record on controlling and oppressive legal measures - Named Person, Offensive Behaviour at Football - flawed, failed, ridiculous.

The SNP like to serve narrow interest groups and forget about their duty to the great majority of the population who don't lobby, aggravate and complain as they have a day- to-day priority of working and looking after their families.

Evidence of Need:

There is no evidence of any major problem or even an upwards trend in threatening or abusive behaviour towards the SNP's pet victim groups.

'allow the law to serve an important symbolic and educative function, sending a clear message that this type of behaviour attracts particular condemnation by society and will not be tolerated'

These words are discriminatory, they are propaganda, fake news, a bombastic set of words and a totalitarian attack on a non-problem. Self-righteous, woke, oppressive and dangerous. There is no societal outcry to justify this Bill, only an outcry among the woke political class and the ceaselessly aggressive identitarian interest groups the SNP likes to please.

Existing Breach of the Peace rules are sufficient to deal with any "problem". Same as the football.

Stirring Up

Far too much scope here. Merely "abusive" is an offence. This needs to be carefully defined as it is in England.

Anti-Religious:

The Bill will automatically be used to curb the expression of religious views which "offend".

Offence of Blasphemy:

This is an echo of a better Scotland. Leave this alone.

Sentences:

7 years? You must be joking. Are we in Saudi Arabia? 1930s Germany? China?

Discrimination:

If you are assaulted and happen to be in one of the pet "victim" groups, the sentence will be more severe than if you are an ordinary member of the public. How is that just? Am I not as important because I am not old, gay, black etc?

Police Time:

How on earth are the Police going to take on investigating the torrent of trivial "offences" that arise. "Officer, a man said something nasty in that pub. Not actually to me but I didn't like it....."

Intent:

Oh, make this easier to prosecute as there will be no need to prove intent. Scandalous.

Further Oppression:

The bill even states that this legislation is just the start - criminalise misogynistic speech? and then what?

Grant Ballantyne
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