

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM ANDREW BROWN**

Hi

I am writing today out of a deep concern that the newly proposed hate crime bill will seriously threaten freedom of speech in Scotland. If we are to define hate as incitement to violence then I believe current legislation is more than sufficient this bill seems to be going far beyond that definition. In fact it doesn't seem to give a clear definition at all. This leave the bill wide open to abuse. In fact it appears to be a very useful weapon to silence voices that would dare to go against the current popular opinion. Thereby robbing the fringes of society of a voice, If it in any way disagrees with the majority. It appears the Scottish government is determined to have every form of diversity expect intellectual diversity. Please reconsider trading our freedom of speech for safe spaces which will become ever bigger until we are all either in a jail cell or too scared to share our true feelings,

Andrew Brown  
21 July 2020