

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM JANET FERGUSON

Good evening,

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?

In response to question 6 of Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill Call for Views

As church services are also included it is my belief that a Sunday morning sermon where Christ is preached as the only Saviour and all religions are said to be false, or where homosexual behaviour is said to be sinful, could see the preacher prosecuted for stirring up hatred. It is my opinion that the new hate crime legislation will not provide greater clarity, transparency and consistency. People should be free to strenuously debate matters without fear of persecution.

I also believe that the offence of blasphemy, speaking sacrilegiously about God, my Lord and Saviour, should most certainly not be abolished.

Furthermore, is an attempt to surreptitiously cause hatred between two nations, Scotland and England, and endeavour to break up the United Kingdom, who have lived together harmoniously for hundreds of years, fought major battles together to ensure our freedom of speech, is that not a crime?

Regards,

Janet Ferguson
21 July 2020