

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM JUNE KAZAN

My query is that in times such as this, when emotions have replaced logic, some so called crimes may be a clash of emotion over logic. In this case how do you prove that malice was the motive? To me “ hate speech “ appears more like a “ thought crime.” it seems we are in danger of becoming like George Orwell’s 1984. An example would be that of J K Rowling with the possibility of a seven year jail sentence hanging over her for what was plainly a show of concern for the welfare of child transgenders and also the impact on women in what was once deemed to be “ safe spaces. “ she is obviously a woman of considerable intelligence and would therefore be more prone to judge the subject with logic. Yet shockingly, we hear she may face a seven year jail sentence. Perhaps it would have been better if she had committed a murder she would certainly faced a lesser sentence. She can hardly be a threat to society. Yet that appears to be how she is being treated. Will we see this type of misunderstanding become criminalised?

June Kazan
22 July 2020