

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM REV WILLIAM MACLEOD

Dear Sir,

I would like to respond to the "Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill"

I am particularly concerned about question 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?"

As a minister of religion I am deeply concerned by this. If this law is past and I were to preach on the Ten Commandments I could be accused of hate crime, no matter how lovingly I speak simply because I state that certain forms of sexual practice are sinful. I try to teach my people to live as Jesus taught us, but he for example forbade divorce apart from a few extreme cases. This bill will hugely limit free speech and could end up making criminals of Gospel ministers who have spent their lives serving the community.

Kind regard

Rev William Macleod

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21 July 2020