

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM DONALD BALFOUR

Aspects of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill concern me. Since the Reformation Scotland has had a clear stand on the side of the authority of the Holy Bible and the Christian religion. I fear that the outcome of this Bill may lead, after time, to persecution for Christians who seek to be faithful to Christ and who believe in the teaching of the Bible.

In the days of His earthly ministry Christ Jesus taught, "if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8.31-32. Jesus also declared, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14.6. These are precious statements to Christians and must be protected.

The Bible teaches that we are to speak "the truth in love". I fear that the outcome, however unintended, may result in Christians being denied to speak the truth in love about Jesus as the only Saviour.

I request that you take great care to preserve our unashamed stand on the Christian religion.

Donald Balfour
21 July 2020