

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM MARK TEMPEST-MITCHELL

To whoever may read this,

The Hate Crime Bill being proposed is simply the second stepping stone that will turn Scotland into a fascist authoritarian state. The bill itself completely ignores and oppresses the human rights of every person living in Scotland as granted by the European Court of Human Rights, that alone should warrant this bill's denial to pass, even before I have to use my right to openly protest and counter this bill with reason.

While the initial goal of the bill may have been and remains to abolish the blasphemy law, what it does is instead create a completely new blasphemy law that will actively be enforced to oppress those of any opinion not held by the SNP. While there are Sections 11 & 12 to give the idea that actions such as **criticism** or **disagreement** will remain perfectly legal, this notion is completely overruled by;

Section 3 - Offences of stirring up hatred

(2) A person commits an offence if-

(b) either-

(ii) as a result, it is likely that hatred will be stirred up against such a group.

"Hatred" is not defined once in the bill. By leaving the fallout of a persons actions or opinions to chance that they may also influence others to share the same opinion, any individual of a protected group can class the "offenders" statements as "likely to stir up hatred" and have them criminalized. This can be used by the Scottish National Party the imprison anyone who criticizes them, but even worse, "protected" or "minority" groups in Scotland can abuse this power to have anyone they may have a grievance with imprisoned and criminally charged for the rest of their life.

This will create a divide the likes of which has never been known in recent times within the United Kingdom, let alone Scotland, that I guarantee a much larger side of the Scottish population will be AGAINST this abuse of their human rights and civil liberties. If not undone diplomatically, I dread to think what will become of such nationwide social and political resentment.

Adhere to the European Court of Human Rights, and deny this bill that breaches those rights at first opportunity.

I will submit my name in full, as the only opportunity I might have to openly act in defiance of such totalitarianism in my homeland.

Mark Tempest-Mitchell

7 July 2020