

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM RYAN KERR

To whom it may concern.

I Ryan Kerr of Edinburgh, Lothian being a citizen of Scotland for over 30 years wish to register my absolute rejection to the expansion of hate crime legislation currently being rushed through by the SNP.

This legislation breaches Article 10 of the Human Rights Convention and if put into effect will allow bad actors to silence everyone they don't like by accusing them of only disagreeing with them because they have a problem with their so called "protected status".

This legislation also breaches the fundamental idea that you are innocent until proven guilty and forces the "accused" to prove they do not hate the accuser based on their "protected characteristic/s".

This bill is beyond acceptable in any way and must be completely removed from consideration.

We can find another way to protect those who need protected, I absolutely agree that if someone is hateful towards another based on their immutable characteristics they should face strict penalty however the conditions for that must be at least as follows: The law must be applied equally to all, and the burden must be on the accuser; the legislation put forward fails on both those of conditions.

Ryan Kerr
7 July 2020