

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM MARK BURLISON

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to warn you of the dire consequences of such a bill. The vagueness in definition of such "offences" as "stirring up hate" is dangerous as there is no example given of what constitutes this. This coupled with the fact that someone may only be perceived to be motivated by hatred of a group to be prosecuted, sentenced and given a criminal record could easily be used to silence opinions that are not seen as 'progressive'. Furthermore there is no way of proving someone's intent in speech or have you figured out how to read minds?

Besides even that, restricting people's speech with the force of law is authoritarianism under the guise of being 'progressive'. Even holding the most fowl of opinions, in a truly free society, should not be a crime to hold. Please, allow the people to call out the people that hold opinions that have no place in our society. The government has no place policing speech, only actions. Hate speech law in the UK has already gone too far, this has to stop.

Mark Burlison
7 July 2020