

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM HARLEY JENKINSON

To begin with- the question of whether there is a need for the bill or not. The issue of hatred has been present for as long as the concept of speech and is quite blatantly a negative part of our society; however, there are far less harmful means to lessening the voices of hateful individuals than silencing them by law. To avoid violation of the rights of the people, perhaps it would be better to discourage and shame those wishing to spread hate in order to alter their opinions, rather than legally oppressing those whom hold and spread prejudiced views by impeding on their rights to freedom of expression and freedom of speech. The right to free speech is vastly important in a functioning democracy, if we silence those whom we disagree with, we are doing null but admitting we haven't the willpower to argue against their bigotry; Our people, if sheltered from hatred will simply be affected by it far more when it makes its appearance, if we were to instead combat hatred through legitimate, respectable means then not only would it lessen the power that those hateful words hold, but would also strengthen the will of our people even further. It is a shame in modern society that when many are happy to hold their freedom of speech, call for silence when confronted with those whom oppose their views. In conclusion, I believe that though the bill is routed in good intentions, the rights of the people should be taken into deep consideration when combatting any social issue in our society, and that we should instead combat bigotry and hatred through means unharmed to the free people of Scotland.

Harley Jenkinson
7 July 2020