

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM DAVID INGLIS

1. The bill creates inequality by protecting certain characteristics, leaving a wide scope to be taken advantage of, and used by a protected group of people.
2. Crimes should be judged by the act and not by looking at protected characteristics in addition. It promotes inequality
3. Hate crime laws promote inequality. There should never be a standalone offence for misogynistic harassment, this shows bias and inequality. It should be defined as a crime against a person, not a characteristic (such as male/female/age/sexual orientation)
4. Exploiting anyone should be the crime, no matter the age and should not add an additional punishment.
5. Words which don't incite violence should not be criminalised further. People are free to have their own opinions, if people disagree there are social consequences. The police should not step in and forcefully remove someone's freedom of opinions.
6. Inciting violence should be punished, however the law cannot be generalised to catch anyone who the powers disagree with. Specific characteristics should not have additional protection over every other individual person in Scotland, everyone must be equal.
7. Unless someone is specifically threatening a person, no matter their characteristic, there should be no crime on what they say. Insulting is a freedom people should have, otherwise anyone can be insulted by anything and someone's opinion will have more power than others.
8. All speech should be free, other than inciting violence. This is a basic freedom any rational country should have. It is the only way to have equality. If you start restricting speech, certain groups become more protected than others.
9. I disagree, it should be repealed. A crime should never be defined by race as this creates division and inequality. It should only be seen as harassment between two equal people. You cannot presume what anyone thinks, therefore no one should be punished for what you presume they think.
10. You should not be punished for what you believe, even if you do not believe in god.

The impact assessment is clearly wrong and bias, this bill will most certainly promote more inequality. Restricting multiple ways of communicating is a clear violation of the European Convention on Human Rights, no one should have the power to decide their opinion is more important than others, so much that they cannot even communicate their opinion.

The bill makes it far too easy for people to be prosecuted, where anyone's words can be twisted against them out of context, in the advantage of certain groups of people, protecting some over others, pushing more inequality.

It further removes any hope of free speech, a basic human right every non imprisoned equal person should have.

People's opinions on what others say should not stand above anyone else's. No one should have the power to punish any because they do not like what they say, this

leaves powers open for abuse and divides people. Only inciting violence should be a crime. You cannot presume what anyone thinks, therefore no one should be punished for what you presume they think.

David Inglis
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