

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM C ROBERTSON

With reference to the above, your proposals are a straight-up assault on freedom of speech. Any government which would propose involving itself in the interactions of its citizens in such a manner, and punishing those it deems guilty of wrong-think, is fascist.

If you cared at all about freedom, you would actually be introducing legislation to *protect* freedom of speech, and so push back against the cancel culture currently sweeping the Western world, not throwing more fuel on the fire, which this legislation terrifyingly does.

I urge you, please, to put a big red pen through this fundamentally evil attempt to neuter Scots' basic and hard-won freedoms. Freedom of speech and of thought are absolutely central to a free, functioning society. As James Madison put it (and I think his words are particularly apposite in terms of the proposed Bill): "Our First Amendment freedoms give us the right to think what we like and say what we please. And if we the people are to govern ourselves, we must have these rights, even if they are misused by a minority."

Thank you for your attention.

C Robertson
[07 July 2020]