

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**SUBMISSION FROM DAVID GRANT**

My personal view on the new hate crime legislation is that it infringes on the basic human right to freedom of speech. People should not be punished by the law for the things they say, it should be between the parties involved in such a dispute to come to a resolve. Offense is completely subjective, therefore what one person may find offensive might not offend another and as there is no supreme arbiter on what's deemed offensive it becomes authoritarian to assume what is offensive. Furthermore the bill does not represent male discrimination as fairly as female discrimination as there is no amendments for misandry, which by the bills definition of a 'hate crime' falls into that category. This is not equal and this is not fair. Also the original seminar where this bill was first reviewed was not presented in front of a large enough sample of the Scottish public, how can the Scottish Government impose a new legislation without conversing with the very people it will impact so heavily? When new legislation is brought forward that infringes so heavily on human rights, it should be put to a vote, especially with something so subjective as offence. Also it is simply ridiculous to assume people's actions were from a place of racial hatred. Personally I wouldn't assume that up until the point they used a racial slur or an obvious pattern in their behaviour showed they were targeting a certain racial or religious group. To recap there should be no legal penalty for the things you say as it is completely subjective, this new bill infringes on the basic human right to freedom of speech, men are not protected from sexism but women are, the bill was not presented to a large enough portion of the Scottish public and it is absurd to assume someone's thoughts in determining the motives of crimes. I hope this goes a long way in persuading the people in power to not turn Scotland into an authoritarian state.

David Grant  
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