

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM TED CRUNKHORN

Dear Sir/Madame,

Thank you for allowing members of the Scottish public to voice their opinions on the upcoming Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill 2020.

As invited, I would like to make it clear that I do not support this legislation.

I feel that the notion of "Hate Crime" remains vague and ill defined and is too open to interpretation by legislators, prosecutors and law enforcement. It is my belief that this is an intentional tactic to make politically motivated restrictions on the freedoms of the Scottish people.

By creating a new law, you will inevitably create new criminals. Law abiding people who have previously only wished to exercise their rights and freedoms, in particular, freedom of expression, are now in the crosshairs of politically overzealous activists.

I do not doubt that in many cases, this is done with the best intentions of a few well meaning interest groups representing traditionally marginalised members of the Scottish public. However, my greatest fear stems from my own experiences and understanding of very recent history.

Governments change. They usually change slowly, but sometimes they change remarkably quickly. What was one day a liberal, democratic or conservative government could, in times of exceptional national crisis or global impasse, could very easily be replaced by fascist, communist or ultra national parody of democracy.

New laws and legislation, regardless of their political sponsor, are always inherited by a new regime.

I would like the sponsors of this bill, and all legislators, when drafting new laws of the land to ask themselves: "What could my enemies do with this weapon?"

If you do not like the answer, please consider returning this proposal to the drawing board.

I remain your humble constituent.

Ted Crunkhorn
[08 July 2020]