

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM HUNTER ROSS

As asked for I shall keep my following views brief on issues with the above bill. My first issue is that this bill is in complete contradiction to Article 10 of the European Human Rights Act and a clear violation of the human rights of the Scottish people to freedom of speech and expression by an ever more authoritarian government. My second issue is that it is entirely subjective as to what is counted as an offence under this bill and is largely up to perception. The problem with this is that if I or anyone else were to offend any of the protected groups under this bill (anyone but a heterosexual white male) they can claim that they perceive it to be due to their protected characteristics. In this instance I will be arrested, charged and be dragged through the courts only to, as seen in recent years, have a prosecutor explain to me what I was thinking at the time before being give a custodial sentence or a fine. The issues with this bill are never-ending and the Justice Minister of Scotland appears to be refusing to pass comment on it; presumably because he knows it is indefensible and an act of pure authoritarianism. I would strongly appeal to the Scottish government to stop turning a nation with which the word "freedom" is mostly associated into an authoritarian nation with state-enforced morals and laws dictating what the citizens of the land can and cannot think and say.

Hunter Ross
[08 July 2020]