

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION FROM MAGDA RAKITA, ICON UK

I thank you for accepting our submission to the written evidence stage of the Hate Crime and Public (Order) Scotland Bill.

I am writing this follow up with additional evidence having read the organisational responses. In particular, I wish to respond to the references suggesting that inclusion of variations of sex characteristics (VSC) in the bill would stigmatise affected people.

As a person born with VSC and a trustee and founder of support organisations for affected children and adults and their families, I'm afraid I have to disagree that the inclusion of VSC in the bill is stigmatising.

Following the thought of parties criticising the inclusion of VSC would suggest, for instance, that legislation protecting people of colour or people with disabilities would have to be considered further stigmatising them. This is clearly not the case.

When reading or listening to statements from adults living with VSC one word comes up again and again. SHAME. I would like to invite you to take a moment and think about the nature of shame. If you look at the core of the meaning and experience of shame, you may see that in reality, it does not exist. It is always ultimately linked to fear — fear of being mistreated or hurt.

That experience is so common that many activists and people who decide to speak about their experiences of being an intersex person or experiences of their families do so under a pseudonym as a necessary precaution. That alone is, in my opinion, a proof that we do need protection. I urge you to include VSC in the bill.

Magda Rakita
iCon UK
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