

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM KEIR YOUNG

I am writing to plead with the Scottish National Party to scrap the hate crime and public order bill, while I know this email will be ignored or completely ineffective with perhaps a meagre response of the usual Political diatribe it still must be sent.

Freedom of speech is the single most important right for any human being, it's the one right from which all other rights will stem from. If a person is not free to speak then they are not free to think. Bad ideas can only ever be challenged with good ideas, with this hate crime law that you are proposing you will simply be driving hatred underground where it will fester and breed. There are also basic principles of equality in that we all get the same or we get nothing at all. With Mr Yousefs hate crime bill some people will be getting more than others. For example it is unacceptable that women can express misandry and hatred of men while men themselves are bound by law to say nothing that will be offensive to women.

This hate crime law is authoritarian to the core, the level of ambiguity in this bill is also concerning although no doubt deliberate. If you proceed with this bill you are setting a highly dangerous precedent, one that will result in the conviction and perhaps even the imprisonment of innocent human beings. There is simply no justification and no need for such a law to be implemented and by doing so you will be victimising entirely innocent people, wasting police time, the tax payers money as well as creating knock on effects such as the people convicted from this law not being able to find employment.

I urge you to scrap this law before it happens as once implemented it will very likely never be undone. Freedom of speech is essential for human wellbeing, people must be allowed to say things which are critical and offensive of others while right or wrong in saying them. You are setting a precedent where a court of law will essentially determine the meaning of another persons speech, if you don't understand the dangers this will create then you must prevent this bill from being passed.

Keir Young
[08 July 2020]