

## **JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

#### **SUBMISSION FROM MACKENZIE THOMAS**

I was made aware of the attempt to pass this bill and wanted to discourage you from pursuing it.

I find the idea of hate crime to be utterly pointless and in a time where police are struggling to deal with riots and sabotage every day from nonsensical outrage over foreign events, you need to focus on real tangible laws.

The fact is simple that you cannot tell what is in people's minds and you'll be opening yourself up to so many legal nightmares people like me will have to pay for and suffer through. If someone criticizes a woman people will complain, but then later we learn the critic was themselves once female, is it still based on some unapproachable hate now? There's a trillion variations of all this.

If an actual tangible crime has been done that is all that needs to be addressed and I do not see enough of that, nor do I see any support for what this bill tries to even do if its done to certain groups.

I myself am an immigrant and bisexual but since that is not visible, being Australian and half of bisexuality is heterosexual it's completely ignored, to so much of the world now I'm a straight white male mocked daily for these aspects. The BBC have had some minor flack very recently for using a new internet insult as a slur on all white women like they're second class people similar to slaves would have been but as I understand the history of this bill has had protections in it removed that would cover these groups, what use is it then at doing what it actually wants to do then? It's honestly disgusting to even think that you decide some groups can be legally unprotected while others need a shield because they're such defenseless waifs out of a law that's sold as trying to make an even equal world for truly everyone.

The only part of the law I agree with is the blasphemy aspect, it is pointless as a law to have on the books, though I am not sure on the specifics that may still deserve caution. Blasphemy on the street is nothing as words cannot harm people (As much as some are determined to believe they can) but in a church that might fall under fighting words-style laws, though for all I know that is already covered in other laws. This itself has potential problems though, since 'woke', the rabid claimed antiracist movement that's taking the world by storm is often argued to be a newly rising religion as it contains doctrines, sins, forgiveness and more, and so many hateful insults now also become blasphemy.

I think this law is rushed and paradoxical, it's a danger to release it as it is and needs at the very least, reworking to actually account for what it is intended to do and not serve a shallow political agenda at odds with the majority of the people.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinions on this. I know as an uneducated commoner they aren't the legal jargon and nuance that might be desired, but I want

to give you my views on this before we all have to suffer the ramifications of a rushed idea.

Mackenzie Thomas  
[08 July 2020]