

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM TOM BLACKWOOD**

To whom it may concern,

I came across this bill, which was badly publicized, and I want to object to this bill being published.

Hate-crimes have largely been used to prosecute innocent people for discussing topics maybe using mannerisms that are normal to them whilst the speaker is oblivious as to the what the listener heard. Hate crimes are becoming less about crime and more about What you've said has offended me so I'm calling the police. There should be less hate crimes so people can discuss the topic and work out the problems rather than restricting talk which will build resentment.

What's more in today's current politically correct charged society, if you are misheard, misspoken, or misinterpreted then it often results in calling the police so everyone is scared to say anything for their words get them charged with what limited hate crime laws exist today.

British law is that complex as it is, I did not know that blasphemy was a common law offense, and I think there should be less laws so the common Scot CAN understand where the lines are. Simpler is often better rather than complex systems of bolting on blasphemy laws onto bills about hate crimes. How are the two related?

Speech should be free, and the people should be free to discuss anything without fear of the government coming in and slapping them with a fine or a mark on their record.

Just let people talk out their issues and air their greivances. If you disallow people from talking then you turn into the oppressor.

Yours Faithfully

Tom Blackwood  
[08 July 2020]