

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM ROBERT RAE**

- 1 existing laws cover this topic
- 2 the focus should be on threatening CONDUCT abusive behaviour is too subjective
- 3 free speech on religion should allow challenges. And needs to be protected
- 4 the threat of prosecution may result in people keeping quiet thus undermining free speech
- 5 legitimate debate must be distinguished from rabble rousing the bill falls short on this
- 6 politically motivated complaints might label disagreement as hatred
- 7 private conversations might  
Be deemed as hate crime
- 8 quoting some scripture or religious text in a sermon or service might be labelled as hate Overall the bill is not fit for purpose

Robert Rae  
[09 July 2020]