

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM DAVID STODDART

Hello, I am a 15 year old student residing in the scottish highlands and I was appalled to see that in my lifetime it may be a common occurrence that people who exercise their right to free speech may be punished by the law. The first thought I had while reading this was, if I do become a teacher how does one go about teaching children about a right that their people once owned. I came to the conclusion that legally it wouldn't be possible.

I understand this bill came with the good intent of protecting those who are at most risk of hate (besides cis white males but theyre gonna be hardly people by 2040). but in all seriousness we already have the appropriate laws in protecting minorities & lgbtq+ communities. Before february 1981 homosexuals were forced to hide their feelings. Sadly this did happen in our past (and not that long ago if you ask me) but why is it "the right thing to do" to make people with right wing views hide their feelings. is it not the fundamental idea of democracy for all peoples to have the right do engage in discourse and show their true feelings and through this discource we can find common ground and call out stupid and incorrect hypothesises and create the closest possible thing to a utopia. so why if i am correct must you remove the scottish peoples right of expression. The answer is totalitarianism. I am convinced that the SNP is now trying to create a left-wing totalitarianism society and suppress the majority of ideas. This is why I think I will end up moving from the country I once called home. It is because power hungry politicians like you have created this disgusting excuse of legislation to further your political agenda without criticism. To prove this point I can bet £50 that this was hardly read.

If you want to get rid of extremists what you do is give them a pedi stool to speak on and then you debate said extremist until either this extremist leaves in shame of his own stupidity or he agrees and reforms himself to a better human being. or you could take the mighty SNP way of thought and suppress them and others like them until they only speak to people who think like them creating (or desperate people who are at most risk of conversion) an echo chamber.

I study history. I am quite fond of the vast tragic history of europe. This "legislation" reminds me the most of Munich 1923 when the german government opened fire on the NSGWP (aka the nazis). This shooting caused many to sympathise with the group and join their cause eventually creating the right conditions for the take over of the german democracy. Unlike a physical shooting the SNP are shooting small shots like this legislation and whether the SNP like it or not the right wing will rise again due to its own incompitance.

The SNP leaves a bitter taste in my mouth and makes me ashamed to say I am a nationalist due to the association with the SNP that comes with the statement.

David Stoddart
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