

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM DAVID BESTWICK

Disagreement with somebody else's views, and expressing that disagreement in a rational and peaceable manner does not equate to hatred, or to stirring up hatred. In fact, the freedom to do so is a cornerstone of a liberal democracy.

We in Scotland have a proud history of free debate, and to try to eliminate hatred by closing down debate is like trying to clean with a sponge without first plunging it into water! None of us has the right not to be offended by someone else's views.

Most of us would like to live in a world without hatred, but curbing free speech is not the way to achieve it.

Please do not turn Scotland into a fascist dictatorship where only 'politically correct' views are countenanced by law.

George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' needs to be learnt from!

Yours faithfully,

David Bestwick
09 July 2020