

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM TRACY HERSCHEL

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill.

My main comments relate to Part 2 of the Bill and the importance of maintaining freedom of expression.

With regard to the *offences of stirring up hatred*; this should only cover threatening conduct and in suggesting this, I refer to Lord Bracadale's Independent Review on the Hate Crime report, which stressed the need for clear distinction between legitimate debate and "rabble rousing".

Apologies, my last e mail was sent in error and incomplete.

Tracy Herschel
09 July 2020