

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM JOHN COUPLAND**

Dear Sirs,

With regard to the forthcoming bill on stirring up hatred I am concerned that simply disagreeing with someone will be regarded as such. The Christian , Muslim and Hindu all need the right to say, politely, that the other chap is wrong. This is a fundamental of Free Speech.

Thinking of extreme views on sexual practices the question arises, 'Are my Biblical views driven by hatred or are they driven by concern for the individual?' Concern for the individual is the driving force behind Christian evangelism and in no way do we claim to be better than the non believer for each and every one of us once walked in their shoes.

Regarding the law on blasphemy my view is that God is big enough to take care of himself and it would be better to scrap that law rather than extend it to all faiths.

I do hope that common sense will prevail other wise the next thing will be folks getting prosecuted for saying the Stones were better than the Beatles! Yes, I have met someone who believes that but we are still friends.

Yours

John Coupland (C of Sc elder.)  
08 July 2020