

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ELLIOT PIERCY

Dear Justice Committee,

I am writing to advise you to strongly reconsider introducing the new Hate Crime and Public Order Bill to law.

It is a gross violation to human rights, and an attack on free speech. This piece of legislation is a dangerous document, an attack on people's freedom, masquerading as a bill to protect groups.

This is a dangerous bill to enforce, speech should have societal punishment, not punishment from the government. I do not trust any government, nor individual to choose what is defined as 'Hateful speech'. This is a gross misuse of the government's power, this is an authoritarian piece of legislation. We must allow speech from all walks of life, and all opinions, this allows us to counter argue "bad ideas" and not push them into the darkness where they will thrive and spread where we cannot argue against these ideas.

If this piece of legislation was introduced in the early 1900's, do you think this would have protected women's right to vote? That would have been seen as a "wrong opinion".

If this piece of legislation was introduced in the mid 1950's, do you think we would have the 1965 Race relations act? That would have been seen as a "wrong opinion".

Again, I urge you to rethink this bill, it is a gross misuse of governmental power, and an immoral attack on freedom itself.

Elliot Piercy
08 July 2020