

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM MICHAEL WHEAT

Parliament has a difficult decision to make in regards to the areas this type of legislation should cover. There is no excuse for hate in any form but there is a grave danger of stifling freedom of speech. For instance, a member of one faith may believe that there is no alternative way to God, I could claim that stating that is a hate crime. Alternatively, people may have views regarding transgender or other matters of sexual identification, can it be stated or is free speech to be stifled?

There is a great danger in trying to legislate to the n th degree and destroy freedom of reasonable speech. Please be very careful lest the baby is thrown out with the bath water.

Michael Wheat
08 July 2020