

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ALEXANDER McLEMAN

Hello, thank you for taking the time to read this email regarding this legalisation. There are many aspects of this bill which seem blatantly bias, poorly written and also pointless.

Bias: the hate speech legislation identifies misogyny as a hate crime but not misandry? As an advocate of equality it seems a miss that clear inequalities be implemented under this law.

Poor definitions: who defines what is hate speech. If protection under the law applies to threats, harassment etc, what else is needing covered which wouldn't just impede on freedom of expression? Will it be up to the officer and courts to determine, if so will context matter? Does there need to be a victim? If I shout "I don't like the elderly" in an empty woodland is that in breach of the law? Could it be if the arresting officer perceives it to be?

Just why?: We have ample legislation to protect marginalised groups and already this legislation has been used to trapple free speech the foundation of democracy and a free society.

These are only some of the issues that come to mind and already I'd hope these issues would stop this legislation dead in its tracks. Scotland being the laughing stock of the free world for arresting a man for telling jokes, one would hope to strengthen the human rights of citizens in this country to freely think and debate topics in civil dialogue rather than restrict it even further.

Sincerely

a disappointed constituent

Alexander McLeman
08 July 2020