

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM JOSHUA NICHOLSON**

This speech law is open to human rights abuses and it compels speech and leaves it open to actual fascists who want to harm the public by using compelled and controlled speech. It stops all discussion of human rights issues and puts a gag order on sensitive topics that need to be debated openly amongst the public. It would allow politicians to silence the public they are supposed to communicate with. Simply because the public disagree with a particular politicians course of action or behavior. The public need to be in contact and allowed open discussion with issues facing them on the political, social, and economic level. Simply put it would give actual fascists the window to enact totalitarian control and to abuse the public without a peaceful vocal recourse. Sometimes a peaceful if loud shouting match can accomplish more than enforced silence. Enforced silence under threat of prison or fines will only cause resentment and discontent. The people need to have their voices heard. From the old man at the pub to the young man on the street corner to law enforcement to every level in between. A peaceful outlet is required. Stopping that because of the threat of government force can only widen the gap of distrust between the public and the government.

Joshua Nicholson  
08 July 2020