

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM SATWANT BANCE

Dear sir/madam - I would like to respond in particular about question 6.

I am deeply worried about the possible repercussions of the proposed hate crime bill. I am aware that numerous religions have specific teachings (of which the followers would take seriously) that are not in line with popular opinion of the day. Therefore, a person should be entitled to state their views (based on religious teachings) regardless of whether this offends or not. As long as there is no evidence of a person deliberately stirring up hatred then they should be able to practice their religion without fear of repercussions.

In a democratic country that claims to have 'free speech,' we should be free to engage in controversial dialogue respectfully and openly, without the fear of someone using our contrasting opinions as a means to silence us.

Using the term 'likely to stir up hatred' can be very open to interpretation and I can imagine this will be abused by many people. How do we measure offence?

Also, many people in our country have various views on issues of sexuality and transgenderism. People should be free to disagree with one another in how they view these issues as we do not live in a totalitarian state. We must protect the people who say that they believe in humanity being male and female, and those who do not agree with same sex marriage. Will these views be protected as the volatile voices continue to apply pressure?

We should all be able to disagree whilst showing respect and civility to one another.

I would hope these unnecessary (and potentially harmful to an a free an open society) will be reneged.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Satwant Bance
08 July 2020