

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM BEN PARKES

Dear Justice Committee,

The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill seems rather morally apprehensible. The law seems to suggest that Freedom of speech can be disregarded if what your saying is perceived to be offensive to specific group. Firstly this seems like it would violate the basic human right of freedom of speech, it dictates what people can say in public. This hinders debate entirely, preventing those with controversial views on aspects like gender politics from expressing themselves. This presents a dilemma: how can you persuade people to change their views on something like gender politics if it is illegal to state their position on the matter? If someone is, for example, racist then how will you know if they aren't able to express this. If we don't know people are bigots then the group is forced underground. This breeds violence and extremism as people become more and more discontent with their inability to express their beliefs.

Secondly, this law discriminates based on sex. This law prohibits Misogynistic views from being expressed, which in and of itself stifles debate of an issue we need to change minds on, men and women should be equal. With this in mind, the fact that misandry is not covered in this law, is not only morally reprehensible, but goes completely against the Equality act (2010) which protects against discrimination based on sex. As a result, this bill was illegal from it's inception, It clearly discriminates based on gender. I personally feel debate cannot happen if people, even those with extreme views, are prohibited by law to speak their mind.

Kind regards,

Ben Parkes
08 July 2020