

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM TALIA CARTER**

Dear Sir/Madam,

My answer relates to question 6 , the plans to introduce a new offence of stirring up of hatred.

I am frankly alarmed at the implications that this has regarding freedom of speech.

A couple of thoughts/examples:

In recent news, an American preacher had venues cancel his bookings in the UK because he was considered to use, 'hate speech', my understanding is that this is because he voiced his biblical views that marriage is between a man and a woman. Would a statement like this be considered stirring up hate and lead to prosecution after this bill? Could a minister be accused of stirring up hatred by quoting the bible in their own place of worship?

A family member decided she was going to change her name and identify as a boy - would I be considered to be stirring up hate if I called her a girl or by her birth name?

Would this new bill stop us from freely and lawfully voicing/debating our own convictions?

My understanding is that we have laws in place already which deal with threatening or abusive behaviour and I do not think that this new law is necessary. I also see it as a potential threat to the liberty of the people of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Talia Carter  
08 July 2020