

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM SCOTT MONTGOMERY**

To whoever reads this Email,

Please for the love of everything good on this Earth, do NOT pass this bill. Many points brought up in the bill are VASTLY up for interpretation, which doesn't help in drawing a line in the sand to see what does and doesn't fit into the law (which is ironic because in the 6<sup>th</sup> line it states that current bills aren't consistent enough). 'Creating new offences relating to stirring up hatred'. On the surface, this seems to just be generalising what may or (hopefully) may not be legitimised in court. But just think about the sentence for a minute. What does this mean exactly? Stirring up hatred, does this include offensive comedians like Frankie Boyle? Or the press? Opposing politicians? How can something someone said be proved as hatred and not a joke?

If you're actually still reading this Email, you can hopefully see that the bill literally goes against human rights, and dangers free speech in this country. The thing about free speech, however, is that over the past couple of years we've seen more and more cases prop up against people exercising their human rights. Everyone is entitled to say what they want whilst not having to worry about being locked up. Now, just because you're entitled to do something doesn't mean you should do it, and it certainly shouldn't mean you can't do it. There are some high-profile politicians that I myself find highly irritating and disagreeable. However, I don't go about my day silencing these people just because they're using freedom of speech in a way that I don't like. You can't just take human rights away from people that you don't like because you don't like how they're using them, and I along with potentially tens of thousands of others across the country, have reason to believe that this bill is doing just that.

I sincerely hope that some of these major points brought up were just rushed oversights, because what we're seeing unfold now is ironically what the Nazi Party were exercising in the 30s in forming an authoritarian government.

Human right. Remember that.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Montgomery  
09 July 2020