

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ANTHONY FRANKS

Dear Justice Committee

Without referring to any of the specific questions in the "Call for views" I have the following concerns about the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland Bill):-

- 1) This Bill poses a massive threat to freedom of speech.
- 2) This Bill would make a difference of opinion appear as a hate crime which would be totally wrong.
- 3) This Bill would inhibit healthy debate.
- 4) This Bill would easily be seen as potentially trying to undermine the authority of various Godly Biblical principles which many people adhere to simply because God is THE authority on such matters!
- 5) Existing legislation already covers abusive/threatening behaviour so there is no need to add to it in the way that this Bill is advocating.

Kind regards

Anthony Franks
09 July 2020