

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM CALUM HUTCHON**

Hello,

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this and hope that you are staying safe during the pandemic.

In short this bill violates human rights and would do nothing but waste police time and hurt the causes it attempts to fix. The right to free speech is one that is guaranteed to us in Article 9 on the European convention of Human Rights. The freedom of thought is fundamental to the progress of society, restricting such freedoms hinders us from advancing in the way that we have done. The expansion of civil rights to include people of colour was once a controversial thought, If there was a bill restricting speech back then we may not have the same rights for those marginalized people and our country probably would not be the haven for all people no matter their race, religion or sexual orientation that it is today.

Secondly it would do nothing to change minds. If I gave you the benefit of the doubt that changing minds of people to realize that everyone deserves to be equal was the goal of this bill it would only hinder that goal. Deryl Davis is a perfect example of how to change minds, in the 80's when the KKK was actually prominent he managed to get 200 Clansmen to leave just by talking to them. imagine instead those 200 people were arrested, put in jail or fined for being racist, do you think their minds would have been changed like they were? Absolutely not. Instead they would have just been made more fanatic in their illogical hatred of POC. The opposite of what we would want in a modern society.

Thirdly, why just restrict misogyny and not misandry? Of course sexism against women should be denounced wherever it rears its ugly head but why just have it go one way? It can easily be perceived as pandering to once side of the political spectrum, and since much of this Bill is about perception that should be addressed.

There are many more arguments that I can list off to go against this bill but I'll leave it all here, I apologize if any of the grammar in this email is off I typed it very quickly and I hope both that the other people emailing you are respectful and that you listen to our concerns.

Thank you,

Calum Hutchon  
09 July 2020