

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM LUKE GRYFFUD

I should begin this email by specifying that I am a 16 year old male who resides in the United States of America. You may be wondering why I'm writing this, and I will tell you.

Not only is a vast majority of my ancestry Scottish, but I have a love for the Celtic world. I plan to not only attend college in Scotland, but also attain British citizenship and live there. I want to return to my homeland, which I love dearly. I have wanted to do this for many years.

I have spent much of my time learning Scots Gaelic and Scots, and I am trying to transition from writing in American to British English. I am even a monarchist who would be loyal to Her Majesty the Queen.

As a prospective Scottish citizen, I am very much concerned by the proposed Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill. I feel as if it will be used to hinder the freedom of Scots, as well as Black and Minority Ethnic Groups (BAMEs) living in Scotland. I want to run for Scottish Parliament, and I fear as if it will also be used by some Scots as a tool to push certain agendas. I fear as if I will not be able to adequately portray my lack of hatred for protected groups, and that someone who wishes to stop me from entering parliament will wrongfully report me to the police on the grounds that they perceived my language as hateful. I fear the bill may be used against many prospective Members of Scottish Parliament (MSPs), and that it will hinder the freedoms that Scots have spent centuries fighting to achieve. And I'm sure we all understand that national heroes like William Wallace, Edward and Robert Bruce, and the 4th Lord of Badenoch didn't die so that our freedoms might be stripped from us. They died for the opposite reason.

Surely anyone loyal to the Scottish people and to the continued freedom of Scotland would be opposed to a bill that could be used for such underhanded purposes?

Yours,

Luke Gryffud
10 July 2020