

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM JOYCE NIMMO**

In response to your request for responses to the above proposed Bill as presented in your Views Webpage, I think that you have to include protection for free speech in this country. Non-threatening disagreement, and even challenging debate, is not the same as stirring up hatred. I have seen the accusations directed against J K Rowling recently simply because she expressed a different opinion on a certain matter. Having a different view in not stirring up hatred! There is a serious risk of the Bill as it stands being used to silence those who hold a different view.  
Protect free speech please.

Yours faithfully

Joyce Nimmo  
10 July 2020