

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM EFFIE BRUCE**

I refer to Part 2 of the Bill. I am concerned about a number of issues here. As a Christian, where do I stand if I say in public that Christ is the only Saviour and all other religions are false, or that homosexual behaviour is sinful – that God loves the sinner but hates the sin? The mere threat of prosecution may cause me to keep quiet but is this not a threat to freedom of speech and therefore undermines a free society?

Surely the existing criminal law already covers threatening or abusive behaviour and so no new law is needed.

There are reports already of academics and writers being stigmatised and bullied. People should feel free to give their opinions on all matters. Having a different opinion does not mean they have hatred for another person.

Other nations – France, Finland, Sweden, Canada and Australia – I understand have restricted free speech. I do hope Scotland and the other parts of the U.K. do not follow them.

Effie Bruce  
10 July 2020

Title if included First name Surname  
dd July 2020