

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM EQUITY

Equity represents over 48,000 creative workers across the UK of which over 2500 live in Scotland. Our membership includes actors, singers, dancers, stage management, voiceover artists, theatre directors and designers, fight directors, choreographers and a range of other professionals working across commercial, subsidised, independent, fringe and regional theatre, opera, live music, ballet and the broader dance sector and many other fields of live performance including circus and variety entertainers.

Equity supports real and immediate action to make our communities safer and more respectful for everyone.

Part 2; section 4 of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill refers to

"Culpability where offence committed during public performance of play." Equity members are professional creative practitioners who are often engaged and instructed by employers on productions. This employment relationship context should be considered in any assessment of their liability and accountability over performance content and intent.

If performance and plays remain within the statute, Equity requests that clear guidance for producers, directors and performers is developed in the form of a code of practice to inform them and help them avoid content or actions which directly or indirectly constitute Hate Crime.

Equity continues to work for the elimination of Hate Crime within our community and is encouraged by Government efforts to address this issue. We welcome further consultation on this important matter.

Equity
24 July 2020