

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM GREATER MANCHESTER RESISTERS

Dear Sir/Madam

I am responding on behalf of Greater Manchester ReSisters a grassroots feminist group that campaigns to uphold women's sex based rights and against the unnecessary medicalisation of gender diverse children.

We oppose the entirety of this bill but particularly Part 2. We believe it to be unnecessary to introduce further hate crime legislation in Scotland and oppose this legislation on principle as hate crime legislation tends to have disproportionately chilling effects on the speech and actions of oppressed and marginalised minorities including women. We are concerned about the potential further heightening of a hostile environment in which dialogue about women's sex based rights and the right treatment approaches for transgender children takes place, should this bill come into law. We are not convinced this bill includes robust enough protections to ensure free speech and the ability to respectfully disagree with others beliefs about sex and gender is upheld.

If part 1 of the bill is retained then the protected characteristic of sex must be included. Excluding women as a group from protection under this law would send a clear message about the government's lacklustre attitude to the rights and protections of women.

Regards

Greater Manchester ReSisters

24 July 2020