

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ANDREW S INGLIS

I hear with dismay this Bill may omit safeguards to protect free speech. We must safeguard the right to allow matters of dispute to be discussed without being accused of stirring up a hate crime. Quoting from the Bible, Koran or other literature which states that certain actions are sinful or immoral should not constitute an infringement of the law likely to stir up a crime of hate or racial prejudice. We must be free to debate ,to disagree on issues which could in another context could be misinterpreted or misused to make accusations against individuals. We could enter a dangerous state where certain books could be proscribed as being calculated to promote hatred or racialism. A reminder of the book burning of the Nazis.

I appeal to your common sense to allow sensible debate on matters of difference without concluding that such matters run the risk of stirring dissension.

Andrew S Inglis
11 July 2020