

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM EILEEN RUSSELL

I am very concerned about the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill. It seems to imply that if someone disagrees with what you say, it could become a 'Hate Crime'. People make choices...they choose to take offence or not to. And what about freedom of speech...not intending any harm, but picked up by someone looking for trouble? There are many things going on and accepted today in our society, which cause a lot of heartache and sadness. God gave us standards to live by in the 10 Commandments and I suppose some people would not agree with the Commandments, but they were not given to stir up hatred but a peace loving society. Lord Bracadale, in his independent Review, 2017-2019. Recommended acknowledging "well recognised" concerns about the potential risk to freedom of expression. I hope you will take this on board.

Eileen Russell
11 July 2020