

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM PHILIP MIDDLETON

Response to the Call for Views on the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill: :
Scotland is a beacon beacon of reason and justice.

Scottish attitudes to social justice, environmental and judicial issues set the gold standard for the UK and worldwide.

Being part Scot is a proud boast for me, in no small way because of these facts.

The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill presently under consideration, jeopardises this hard earned repute.

I want to be able to say, as an atheist humanist, that all religions are man made confidence tricks, perpetrated by an elite, intended to subjugate, offer false hope and demean the human condition.

I want to be able to say that the ripping and tearing of a baby boy's foreskin is a hideous example of child abuse.

Surely any religious believer whose dogma requires circumcision will allege that my calling such a practice "child abuse" as I most certainly do, will be able to claim under the terms of the Bill as it presently stands, that I am being "abusive" and likely to "stir up hatred".

Religious belief structures have diminished our human values since they first emerged as primitive man's early attempts to explain our world, ("man is born in sin" etc)

Humanity has moved on, hurrah!

Religions and religious belief should not be supported and validated by legal protection.

I insist on being able to freely say that religions are; hateful, divisive, destructive, primitive, traps for the simple minded, idiotic and should be abandoned.

The wording of the Bill as it stands will allow someone to say that these words and others like them will be "likely" to stir up hatred or are "abusive".

The Bill will be used by zealots to try to stifle free speech and justified criticism.

Change or better yet, abandon this Bill.

Protect my freedom of speech please.

Thank you

Philip Middleton

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