

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM IAN HEBPURN

The new stirring up of hatred offence may be unwittingly committed by someone not intending or even realising that they were doing so

Religious beliefs and views on morality are matters on which folk can have a civil debate and change their minds. A free society must protect this

There is a serious risk that politically motivated complaints will label disagreement as hatred to try to silence their opponents. Police Scotland has said that free speech clauses are important to stop them being inundated with vexatious reports

Church services aren't excluded A sermon where Christ is preached as the only saviour, and where certain lifestyles and values are said to be sinful, could see the preacher prosecuted for stirring up hatred

Thanks

Ian Heburn
13 July 2020