

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM JONATHAN KAHLE

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you in response to the Hate Crime and Public order Bill, in particular question 6.

I am particularly concerned with part (2) (b) (ii) as it seems that even if the offence was committed unwittingly, without intention of causing hatred or discrimination, the speaker could still be charged and imprisoned. This poses a big threat to freedom of speech for Theists and Atheists alike. Everyone has the fundamental right to speak their mind as long as it does not encourage violence toward a person or group of people.

Western culture is built on the idea that the Logos is the sacred element that maintains order in a society. It is logocentric. Therefore it is imperative that everyone feels free to voice their views or opinions without fear of arrest and imprisonment. If this freedom is restricted it will undermine a free society and I fear have damaging effects on our culture.

Thank you for taking the time to read my response

Yours faithfully,

Jonathan Kahle
13 July 2020