

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM CHRIS KAHLE

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you regarding the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill.

Here is my view to question 6:

This seems to me a quite subtle and dangerous way to cut the freedom of speech which does not fit together with a free society.

I am from East Germany and I am really happy that the time of restriction and fear of speaking your mind is past. Through my experiences I came to deeply value the freedom to express views and discuss matters in a fair and open manner.

Knowing that existing criminal law is already in place to cover threatening or abusive behaviour, I don't see the need for a new law.

This bill does not reflect a clear difference between a discussion/debate and the attempt of stirring people to violent actions by an appeal to emotions or prejudices.

Yours faithfully

Chris Kahle
13 July 2020