

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM MONIKA KAHLE

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill, to express my view on question 6.

The new stirring up hatred offences could be done unknowingly and unintended by someone who does not even realise it.

Personal views on morality as well as religious beliefs should be themes which can be freely and openly discussed, debated, criticised and even challenged. Freedom of speech characterises a free society. Everyone should feel free to state their views or opinion without fear of reprisal.

I see a serious risk that with this bill people will try to silence views which oppose their own opinion.

Yours faithfully

Monika Kahle
13 July 2020