

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**SUBMISSION FROM NAN MCLAUGHLIN**

I believe that passing this bill would be detrimental and restrictive to all faith based organisations and to other charities.

In England the hate crime bill that has been applied allows for ministers, lay ministers and people of all faith to share their beliefs without being persecuted for their faith. If I wanted to share my faith with another and I was not being aggressive or manipulating I should be able to do this. Sharing my beliefs is a way of life for me as a Christian and I am certainly not inciting people or gathering support for a cause. This bill could be used to target certain people of faith and to undermine the family values and Christian foundation our country was founded on.

An example could be that I could be in conversation with someone who is near death and I share with them from scripture that Trust in Jesus is the way to heaven. This is a fundamental Christian truth, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

I could be in trouble by saying this even although my tone and intentions were wholly good and sincere.

I do not have any time for those who speak out against others regarding race, sexual preference or any other judgement that could cause division. I don't judge, but I have the right to speak of my life in Christ.

Don't squash or interfere with our right to free speech. We are not a police state nor are we a dictatorship.

Nan McLaughlin

14 July 2020