

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ANGUS LOGAN

I am a concerned citizen and retired solicitor. I worry that the above bill does not protect democratic freedom of conscience of opinions and beliefs. The bill lacks the English legislation's protection of rights to express viewpoints that may be controversial but have never traditionally been seen as hate-bearing.

The bill must protect genuinely held political, ethical, moral, and religious beliefs - yet at present it does not.

In particular, the Bill should protect persons who express strong or controversial beliefs or views without any intention of stirring up "hatred". This bill really must be amended to protect freedom of opinion and belief.

Yours.

Angus Logan.
15 July 2020