

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM PHILIPPA MASON

I am writing in regards to your consultation on the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill. I write as an individual unaffiliated with any organisation and these views are my own.

My primary concern is with the affect this Bill with have on women and children. The Bill outlines protections for many characteristics but there appears to be a deliberate exclusion of 'sex'. This stands out as a deliberate omission as many other characteristics appear to be gaining protection.

2020 has not been an easy year for women. We have seen a sustained attack on the our definition, our rights and our spaces. Being able to freely discuss, define ourselves or fight for issues that affect women have been met with attack. Even stating biological truth about there only being 2 sexes and the need for focus on issues that affect biological women (pregnancy, abortion, breastfeeding rights, access to HRT) are being shouted down and not given the policy attention they require. Conversations on all these issues need to take place and women need to be listened to. My key concern is that voicing these concerns may become a hate crime. There is an obvious conflict of rights which is not being addressed.

By merely expressing concern and support for women, I have been subjected to threats of violence, sent sexual intimidation and called a transphobe. The issues at hand are not being addressed and women's concerns are falling on deaf ears.

I would urge you to consider the effect of this Bill on safe spaces for women and children and engage with groups that represent the rights of women and children.

Philippa Mason
03 July 2020