

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM KEN ROBERTS

Dear Justice Committee Persons,

Dictionary definition of HATRED is:

“An extremely strong feeling of dislike”

For a “feeling” to be a criminal offence flies in the face of reason and democracy.

EXAMPLE : If the bill is passed, and I said “I have an extremely strong feeling of dislike for THE HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL, I could be arrested and prosecuted under the bill itself. This would apply even if articulated in my own home.

This is completely at odds with Human Rights and there are already sufficient provisions within the Law to protect citizens of Scotland.

This Bill would place a halter of criminality on free thought when articulated by speech, thus making us as citizens vulnerable to aggressive political ideologies whilst being robbed of the weaponry of rational debate in order to protect ourselves.

A side effect of such an onslaught on free speech would be to inundate our already pressurised Police with debatable and costly legal proceedings.

I urge all voters and politicians who believe in democracy and human rights to oppose this hybrid Bill on the basis that it provides political activists the opportunity to close down legitimate opponents.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Roberts
16 July 2020