

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM GEORGE WELSH**

I am extremely worried that this legislation will limit free speech. The fact that individuals can be prosecuted for uttering words in their own homes is reminiscent of totalitarian regimes. It will place faith organisations under great pressure who have issues on sexuality or female issues.

It could lead to more Rotherham grooming scandals as officials will be reluctant to challenge unique groups.

It is subjective and can be misused. Better to educate people.

Many people are racist because legislation has been imposed on them and will not enter debate because of the consequences of being labelled a racist. It will add to the cancel culture.

The current legislation covers general abuse so use it wisely.

I don't support hate activity but curtailing free speech is a deadly choice as it will pervert the nature of our Scotland. Be sensible and drop this bill.

George Welsh  
17 July 2020