

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM NANCY CLUSKER

It is not just in the realm of social media that citizens are now afraid to express their opinions and beliefs.

With all the advancements we have made, we have discarded the hallmark of a civilised society: the ability to debate, discuss and, most importantly, to differ, in viewpoints held sincerely.

I have read of Cancel Culture and hoped such a mindset came from a poverty of education, a mediocrity of vision. Yet now I read that a Bill is proposed here in Scotland which proposes a similar way of thinking.

Ladies and gentlemen, (if that form of address is not offensive) I have not come from where I have, to live the rest of my life unable to state what I believe to be true. And moreover to not be able to say without fear, that much of what passes for inclusivity in the laws being passed today are, in fact, selling children and young people short: and all in the name of freedom, of course! Yet freedom, freedom of thought and expression, is that very right which is in danger of being lost. Or is only to be denied to those who dare to deviate from the prescribed message?

I hope you read the articles and opinions written about this proposed Bill, from finer minds than mine, and that they shame your paucity of vision.

Nancy Clusker
18 July 2020