

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ALEXANDER WILSON

To whom it may concern,

I am alarmed at the Scottish Government's proposed Hate Crime Bill.

I fear that we are in danger of becoming like North Korea or the like, where no different beliefs are allowed to be openly expressed.

As it stands, the bill may be used for blocking the freedom of speech of religious groups and others who maybe have different views on morality, sexuality, marriage, blasphemy etc than what is expressed through the popular media etc.

To merely have a different view or belief and to express it is NOT hated towards people of different opinions. It's just an opinion and people should be allowed to speak freely without fear of prosecution.

I believe that this bill will not protect our freedom but will be used to try to shut down diverse views classifying certain beliefs as "abusive" or "hate speech". When in fact they are just opinions and beliefs.

I think the bill should aim at actual hatred and abuse and not try to curb our cherished and diverse freedoms.

I do hope this bill will be rewritten to protect the freedom of the Scottish people.

Best regards

Alexander Wilson
18 July 2020