

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM PAUL DONEGAN

I am deeply troubled by this bills reach and scope. I do not believe there is a need for this bill in its current form at all .

I believe all issues we currently face can be dealt with under current legislation.

We would be subject to an effective ban on any form of free expression in either private or public spaces and unsure as to what can cause offence to anyone and thus possible prosecution.

One of my great concerns is an actual and robust definition of 'Hate Crime' which appears fuzzy at best and wholly dependent on the observer.

In summary , I strongly oppose this proposal.

Paul Donegan
18 July 2020