

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM MURDO MACLEOD

I am responding to the above Bill.

Religion, sexual ethics and transgender issues are often contested in public debate. In a free society we should be able to challenge, criticise and otherwise robustly disagree with the beliefs and actions of others, even in ways that might offend them. I see no need for further legislation in these areas as we already have sufficient laws to deal with offences committed.

If a new law must be introduced it must include strong protection for free speech must be included.

Lord Bracadale's Review on Hate Crime report, highlighted the need for a clear distinction between legitimate debate and rabble rousing. This Bill does not do that.

Murdo MacLeod
18 July 2020