

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM MARY ANN MACFARLANE**

I wish to give my views on the proposed Hate Crime Bill. As a Christian I feel that free speech is a human right and that we all should be free to express our personal opinions without fear of prosecution. Why should Scotland. Introduce a law which is destined to lead to more confusion and hatred in our country. Surely people can express views without it being classed as hate!! With the present pandemic we are reminded that our lives are not our own and that free speech is a God given right which no government has the right to deny its citizens. I trust that you will be granted wisdom not to allow this Bill to become law now or in the future.

Mary Ann MacFarlane  
18 July 2020