

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM PAUL COWAN

Regarding "Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill" request for views.

I will keep it shorts and simple!

Freedom of speech is the bastion of a liberal civilization and any attempt to threaten it (such as this bill) should be treated with disdain. Criminalising people for speech or ideas is unapologetically fascist no matter how abhorrent those ideas may be. The very notion of what can be considered hate speech is entirely subjective. Legislation based on such a foundation is profoundly dangerous. The answer is not criminalising hateful speech. The answer is encouraging the moral fortitude to respond with MORE FREE SPEECH and better ideas.

The incesant nanny statism of the Scottish Government is a growing threat to civil liberty and as such the Scottish Government should collectively hang their heads in shame.

Yours sincerely

Paul Cowan
04 July 2020