

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM SHONA LONG

I am happy to have my views re this proposed Bill on record. It's safe to say that I am incensed with anger at these draconian proposals. Largely because I am a liberal person who doesn't believe that the State ought to have too much power over the thoughts of the people. This Bill proposes over reaching powers.

Secondly, how on earth is the law supposed to weed out what is meant by hateful, what is genuine intent to be prejudiced from simply having the 'wrong opinion' or gallus humour ? There is no room for woolly legislation. It doesn't require much imagination to envisage how this proposed law could be used as a revenge tactic to criminalise an individual or at very least damage an individual by reputation. Unfortunately, mud sticks. Who gets to decide what is and isn't hateful?

I genuinely can't think of anything more draconian than this proposed bill outside of living within a modern theocracy. It may be well intentioned but it is backward in thinking, for a Liberal, open minded and enlightened society plus surely unenforceable.

I wholeheartedly oppose it.

Shona Long
07 July 2020