

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM DAVID CURRIE

Are we being told what we can believe?

How do I know if what I believe will not cause someone offence?

I may not be rude or arrogant but simply want to disagree with the person with whom I am having a debate. Is it wrong to disagree ?

Am I likely to cause offence if I disagree? I might not intend to cause offence but someone may wish to perceive my thoughts as offensive when they are just an expression of my faith or belief or just thoughts.

How do we know what evil is if we do not hear it?

Was Adolf Hitler right or wrong in his ideology? Obviously to me he was wrong and I only know this because I knew what he believed and it was in my eyes wrong.

But he was able to express himself otherwise how would I know what I needed to believe ? His actions informed me that my thoughts were not like his. You could ditto this for all the great dictators of the world including Roman emperors.

The free speech clause on religion must be stronger protect more than mere discussion or criticism

People must be able to challenge religious beliefs.

If something is likely to stir up hatred does that mean the person's aware of this. It must be clear that someone was doing something deliberately.

Do we need a new law as we already have a law covering threatening and abusive behaviour? From what I see No new law is needed.

Living in a free society must be protected.

People can have strong views they can also change their mind through good robust debate and challenges.

Will I be wrong if I say I do not like someone because ofthe way they talk, dress, think or look?

This all underlines the need for freedom of expression and freedom of speech.

I may not like what you say and I may not agree with you but I believe you have a right to be heard if that's what you believe. I certainly won't take offence if you disagree with me or my beliefs in fact I encourage debate.

We tread a very dodgy path with this new proposed bill Think carefully, but be careful as you might have to keep your thoughts to yourself.

David Currie
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