

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM DOUGLAS KYNOCH**

You have invited views on the proposed legislation named above. These are my own as they relate to the suggested introduction of a new offence of stirring up of hatred:

In the present climate of public debate, there is a consistent confusion between opposition to a view and the expression of hatred. Christian people, for example, are routinely accused of hatred by supporters of LGBT 'rights', because, as Bible believers, they may not endorse the validity of homosexuality, same-sex marriage or any kind of sexual indulgence outside marriage, which involved another person. This may now be extended in general to cover the transgender issue. Apart from the latter matter, the Bible makes abundantly clear what the will of God is concerning these things; and we accept this as Bible truth. The Bible, on the other hand, does not tell us to hate people who take the contrary view. Indeed, hatred of other people is quite alien to Christian teaching which, as you no doubt know, instructs us to 'love one another.'

Yet the falsehood is routinely circulated that to disagree with the LGBT view is to hate those who hold it. No less common than the falsehood itself is the fact that it so frequently goes unchallenged by people who are in a position to challenge. There is now a widespread apprehension that without proper safeguards, written into legislation, it could become illegal for Christian preachers to uphold Bible teaching not only on the matters in question but on the validity of other faiths. We are talking here about freedom of speech.

Those who ritually take offence should ask themselves whether indeed offence is being given or intended. Those who legislate must ask themselves the same question and ensure that proper safeguards are in place and freedom of conscience and speech is preserved.

Douglas Kynoch  
07 July 2020