

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM JAK MONTGOMERY

The proposed legislation by the SNP is anti-free speech and should not be passed. The bill's attempt to create offences based upon the extremely subjective criteria of 'stirring up hatred' is absolutely wrong. How can a supposedly democratic party think that passing speech laws based upon subjective offence could ever be fair? This Bill does not represent the people of Scotland it represents the wants and desires of a small minority of lobbyists which is being portrayed as the views of the majority of Scots. All SNP ministers who are in favour of the bill, in particular Hamza Yousaf, have refused to engage in public discourse regarding the bill, Hamza Yousaf himself freely admitting to blocking critics on twitter, clearly because he himself understands that this bill is indefensible. This bill while claiming to protect against discrimination towards uncontrollable characteristics does not protect all people, for example misogyny is a listed offence however misandry is not, a blatant double standard. This bill is anti-free speech, it is anti-democracy and it is anti-human rights. what is considered hatred and offensive is entirely subjective and cannot be fairly legislated upon, the SNP does not have the right to remove human rights because it doesn't like how some people use theirs.

Jak Montgomery
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