

## Justice Committee

### Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill

#### Written submission from John Easdale

I am writing to you regarding the new Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill, I find this Bill to be against my human right to express my freedom of speech under article 10 of the Human Rights Act, as penned below.

Article 10 protects your right to freedom of expression. This includes the right to hold and express opinions yourself as well as to receive and impart information and ideas to others.

Before the Human Rights Act came into force, the right to freedom of expression was a negative one: you were free to express yourself, unless the law otherwise prevented you from doing so. With the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into English and Welsh domestic law, the right to freedom of expression is now expressly guaranteed.

In *Handyside v UK* (1976) the ECHR stated that freedom of expression constituted one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and one of the basic conditions for its progress and development of every person. It also made clear that Article 10 applied not only to information or ideas that are favourable and inoffensive but also to those that offend, shock or disturb the State or a sector of the population.

John A Easdale  
22 June 2011