

**Justice Committee****Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill****Written submission from Margaret Halliday**

I refer to the proposed changes to the above Bill. Whilst applauding the Parliament in its attempt to curb sectarian acts and violence I am concerned that the Bill goes too far and in effect curbs freedom of speech especially religious speech. I am a Christian and having lived in a number of countries greatly appreciate the freedom of speech we have in this country. In particular in these days of creeping or rather rampant secularisation of our values, etc., I value the opportunity to express my Christian views without fear of being branded a criminal.

Please consider very carefully the wording of what could be a significantly important Bill.

Margaret Halliday  
23 August 2011