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PE1530/TT

The Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament

23 January 2015

PE1530 – Guidance on how creationism is presented in schools

Dear Sir/Madam,

The position of the Scottish Government and the teaching unions is that we don't need politicians telling teachers what they should teach. This is a position the Free Church of Scotland completely agrees with.

Politicians seeking to enforce their doctrines through the State education system is the mark of an authoritarian, not a democratic state.

The petitioners have failed to provide any evidence whatsoever that creationism is being taught in science classes in Scottish schools.

In their letter to the committee of 19 January 2015, the petitioners admit they are not just concerned about the teaching of science. They demand that no 'presentation' of 'separate creation' should ever happen in any Scottish school, in any context, by anyone. They have dropped the pretence that this is about what is taught in science classes and instead have made it an overarching concern that only the atheistic philosophy of naturalistic materialism be taught.

It is an incredibly authoritarian and doctrinaire approach to education. This is not a 'modest' request. It is an anti-educational, anti-thinking, doctrinaire approach that more resembles the Stalinist/Fascist approach to education – than it does the traditional Scottish Christian approach.

The petitioners are demanding that children be told what to think. The Free Church of Scotland believes that children should be taught how to think. And we believe that in a mature democracy, sceptical questioning and alternative points of view should be encouraged rather than banned.

It is sad that at a time when people are rightly claiming the right to free speech, the free expression of ideas, no matter how offensive, and the right to question and think

for oneself, the petitioners are campaigning to exclude from the Scottish education system those who do not share their philosophy and their values.

It appears to us that the aim of the petitioners has nothing to do with the welfare of Scotland's children and everything to do with a desire to get some kind of propaganda victory so that they can continue their campaign to remove religion in general, and Christianity in particular, from public life.

We hope that this attempt to indoctrinate, ban and suppress will be resisted. Please close the petition.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev David Robertson
Moderator Designate
The Free Church of Scotland