Shortly after the Madrid Bombings in 2004 I attended a Hearts V Rangers match at Tynecastle. A minutes silence was called to remember the victims. I stood with my late father as 3/4 of the ground fell silent - but the Rangers end of the ground gleefully sang anti-catholic songs and chants throughout that minute and beyond. They were celebrating the fact that the victims were catholic. That this was not even considered newsworthy in the 21st century shows what a dreadful state we were in.

I have no axe to grind. My grandfather was a top official in the Orange Order. Almost all the sectarianism I have seen in my 50 odd years has been at or around football matches. It's why I would never take my kids to a match involving the Old Firm. The mob mentality is frightening - football is a special case because of this.

I believe the act has made sectarianism at football less accessible. Just like drink driving sometimes legislation has to send a message and lead public opinion. Scrapping the Act would send out the wrong message. Scotland needs dragged out of the 1690's and the Offensive Behaviour At Football Act has been a welcome step in that direction.

I'm frankly ashamed that we are even discussing repealing it.

Dr Andrew George Brown
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