

Dear Senate Committee,

I write in relation to the new Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

I understand that this bill would, among other things, make it illegal to offend someone else in at work on the ground of their religious or political beliefs. I find this bill disturbing and an intrusion of our basic rights of free speech and free belief.

Surely we already have sufficient legislation to protect against obnoxious or overtly offensive behaviour without imposing on our existing freedoms.

I may express my views in a reasonable manner but this may still offend others who have opposing views. The resulting debate may be very healthy and is actually the basis of our existing political system and other freedoms we all exercise daily.

Let us not remove the great freedoms we have in this country and so reduce us to be like the former soviet states (that I recently visited) that still struggle with fear and oppression and lack of these basic freedoms.

Yours faithfully,
Geoff Dyer