

To the Committee Secretary,

I would like to make this submission to the Committee examining the Exposure Draft of Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

My opinion is as follows:

In order to allow rights for all with no offence to any you would have to separate society into group dwellings of like minded people with high walls and no outside communication.

As this is obviously impractical we can conclude it won't be done but nevertheless offence will come.

It is not the offence that is the problem but the motive of the person causing the offence.

If the words, acts or action of the offender are malicious in intent then that can only be determined by firstly the offender acting and secondly the offended receiving the communication.

This is what we call the process of free speech and a free society and the reason we have courts of law to deal with the offences should they occur.

If you continue down this road legislating against the possibility of someone offending another you will continue to remove the letters of the word free until there are none left.

Less is more in the area of defining rights and discrimination, for it is then that our courts can function as they are meant to according to occasion and circumstance in context.

If I have not made myself clear perhaps you could consider the following statement to be my submission:

YOU ARE GOING THE WRONG WAY--BACK UP!

Yours Sincerely
Chris Reibel