

As regards the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill, I am against this bill as I believe it to be a threat to our freedom of speech, freedom of association, and freedom of religion, as well as being against natural justice. It should be rejected. I find it quite appalling that the accused party has to prove his/her innocence. This completely reverses the onus of proof so that the basic principle of 'innocent until proven guilty' is violated. This means that anyone can bring any sort of malicious accusation against any other party simply because the accuser has a minor score to settle.

Religious freedom should be upheld at all costs, so that any member of any religion can express disagreement with any other religion without fear of being labeled as a criminal. This is all part of a robust democracy which encourages robust debate. No one has a right not to be offended – we all, however, have the right to defend our beliefs and principles.

Yours sincerely
Christine Elam