

Dear Sir/Madam,

May I suggest that before you go ahead with voting on this Bill, you consider the many problems associated with the implementation of the Bill.

If it becomes legal to offend someone at work merely on the ground of their religious or political belief, free comment/opinion/statement of facts/ newspaper headlines/ news broadcasts could cause offence to someone. The public would have their "free speech" made illegal. Slander/enticing to violence etc are not the object of this Bill. It is merely that "someone" takes an offense.

Please take note of the outcome of the Victorian "Racial Vilification Bill". It was unworkable. Someone took offence to what a person quoted from the Koran.

Offence is too vague. It becomes too personal. What offends you may not offend me. There has to be grounds for an illegal or defamatory action before a legal procedure can be started.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Ormrod