

Proposed Amendment to the Protection of Freedoms Bill

1)

- a) The authorities of the United Kingdom, including England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, should respect the constitutional right of every person who is a citizen or resident of the UK to express his/her opinion, view or belief without fear of official reprisal, except in instances covered by section (2).
- b) The police may not arrest anyone solely on the basis of spoken and/or written words, except in instances covered by section (2).
- c) The Crown Prosecution Service should not prosecute anyone for words spoken and/or written, if the sole reason for prosecution is because of expressed words, except in instances covered by section (2).
- d) All sections of Acts of Parliament, Statutory Instruments and by-laws that limit freedom of speech, freedom of expression and the freedom of written expression are repealed by this Act to the degree that there is conflict between this Act and previous legislation.

2)

- a) Section (1) does not apply if the expressed words are considered to be inciting violence, treason, or a criminal act punishable with a custodial sentence.
- b) Section (1) does not apply should the words expressed cause a person to fear for their physical well-being, nor does it apply if a continuous expression of words cause a person to deteriorate markedly in mental well-being.
- c) Section (1) has no bearing on laws of libel and/or slander.

3)

- a) Section (1) cannot be amended except by successful passage of a further Act through both Houses of Parliament.
- b) Section (2) may be amended by the Secretary of State for Home Affairs providing that a vote ratifying the amendment(s) is passed by both Houses of Parliament.

4)

- a) These sections shall take effect in England and Wales upon the enacting of the Act.
- b) The Scottish Parliament must ratify these sections before they take effect in Scotland.

- c) The Northern Ireland Assembly must ratify these sections before they take effect in Northern Ireland.