

Hi there

I would like to add the following submission for consideration in the Legislation in respect of Incitement to Hatred:

I'm a Deaf LGBT community member, my experience of 'Hate Speech' leaves me feeling extra vulnerable and unsafe, not only might I be mocked for being gay but for being Deaf/using sign language too.

As a Deaf person, 'Hate Speech' for me would include deliberate use of inappropriate or vulgar terminology to describe my deafness or inability to follow/respond to verbal instructions (e.g. I've been called Muto, Mute, Thick, Dummy, Cabbage, Spa etc.). I've experienced being roared at unnecessarily, when I point out that there's no need to shout I get replies like "we ARE allowed to shout because you is fxxxking DEAF!"

Sometimes these exchanges are accompanied by inappropriate face expressions, hand-flapping over the ears, or rude gestures to mock Sign Language users. One time I was at a pub just outside the City with a Deaf friend, it was obvious that we were Deaf Lesbians – dressed butch/rainbow gear and using sign language; a man walked over and asked us loudly if we "*lip-read each other down there?*" pointing to his private areas provoking laughter and more inappropriate gestures from other people in the bar.

I hope that consideration will be given to include terminology and gestures within legislation to protect people with disabilities, Deaf and other non-verbal people from being excluded or singled out and openly mocked for our disability as well as sexual orientation.

Many thanks

Chime