



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01728

Name of petitioner

Frances Nixon

Petition title

Make false allegations a hate crime

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to consider legislation to ensure that false allegations are considered as a hate crime and dealt with in law as such.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I sent a copy of my petition asking for support to MSPs - Bill Kidd, Anas Sarwar, Annie Wells, Patrick Harvie, Adam Tomkins, Johann Lamont and Pauline McNeil.

Petition background information

“The world is a dangerous place. Not because of the people who are evil; but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.” Albert Einstein 1879 – 1955

This petition is submitted in order that the law of Scotland changes to recognise any type false allegations as a hate crime. That victims of such are given recognised Victim status with their suffering considered. Being subjected to malicious false allegations is a totally life changing and destructive experience. Victims need to be considered in this crime, need to be heard, need to have cognisance taken of the pain and injury they endure.

I propose that Scottish Parliament introduces a new law whereby anyone who deliberately and maliciously makes false accusations against another person is automatically subjected to the full rigger of the law in serious cases, or in less serious ones at the very least an automatic heavy fine imposed.

Personal experience

I have personal experience of malicious and destructive false allegations. The allegations started small and grew more bold and serious until I was eventually arrested and was due to stand trial. Unlike many Victims I was extremely lucky; I had an unexpected witness to whom I owe my liberty and life.

The malicious allegations made full use of present laws, were well thought out,

planned and I believe others were asked to collaborate in the allegations. Without witness I would now be serving a long prison sentence. The ultimate tragedy: there was no rejoicing in my freedom. My suffering continued and I am still dealing with the consequences of those allegations. Unbelievably the perpetrators walked free, unpunished, as the Procurator Fiscal chose to not proceed with their prosecution as it was deemed “not in the public interest”.

As a victim of false allegation I had to fight every inch of the long hard road to retain my freedom and sanity. When shown I was an innocent victim, and not by any court, I struggled to have my details removed from Police Scotland Data records. I am still fighting for Justice, hence my petition. The Law has to change to protect good citizens like myself.

It is my belief that when criminals go unpunished for a “little” crime they go on to “bigger” crimes and failure to punish gives criminals impetus to try again. Public opinion may come to hold the view that those who fail to punish be held accountable and are responsible when the same acts are carried out again.

We appear to underestimate the catastrophic power of false allegations and the effect it has on the lives of the victims. Any type of false allegation can destroy a life. They are like weapons of mass destruction; they can destroy every aspect of a person’s being and steal their freedom. This happens not in one fell swoop but slowly and steadily until the former person is irretrievably changed, lost.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01728>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

02 / 08 / 2019

Comments to stimulate online discussion

False allegations are lies and there is no such a thing as a small lie. A lie is a lie is a lie. It undermines the law of our land and harms all of society. Our legal system depends on truth. It is why we swear to tell the truth in a court of law.

- Do you think false allegations need to be considered a serious crime?