

Dear Committee Members,

I wish to make my views known to you about the proposed anti-terrorism laws and to ask you to recommend that the bill not be passed.

There is no evidence to suggest that these laws which would remove civil liberties that have been enjoyed by our society for a very long time will prevent terrorist attacks. In fact, I would suggest that the more dissent is stifled it is possible that the most disaffected members of society may be encouraged to extremism. The proposed laws will also foster a society that turns in on itself where people considered to be different from the 'norm' will be ostracised and/or persecuted.

Our civil liberties, for example the presumption of innocence, have been under attack for some time now and it is particularly concerning that extra powers should be invested in police when several forces have been shown in recent times to be fallible.

The secrecy provisions of the proposed laws are also unacceptable - scrutiny by the media is essential in a free society.

My parents' generation made many sacrifices to fight fascism sixty years ago. It is distressing to think that those who pay lip service to the sacrifices made by that generation can contemplate passing these laws. The passing of this legislation will mean that the terrorists are indeed winning - they will have succeeded in destroying a precious part of our society.

Thank you for your time.

Susan Armer
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