

Submission

Crimes Amendment Bill

NZ Council for Civil Liberties

<http://nzcl.org.nz>

3rd May 2018

About the submitter

The New Zealand Council for Civil Liberties is a watchdog for rights and freedoms in New Zealand. Formed in 1952, the Council works through education and advocacy to promote a rights-based society and prevent the erosion of civil liberties by government or any other parties. It is a voluntary not-for-profit organisation.

Contact Details

Enquiries can be directed to the NZ Council for Civil Liberties' spokesperson, Thomas Beagle, on 021-805040 or at thomas@nzcl.org.nz.

About this Submission

The Council do not wish to appear before the Select Committee.

Submission

The New Zealand Council for Civil Liberties supports the repeal of section 123 of the Crimes Act, thereby abolishing the crime of blasphemous libel.

The crime of blasphemous libel is an unwarranted restriction on the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, both protected by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act.