Silent Prayer in Scotland – April 2024

The Bill to ban silent prayer will be debated in the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday, 30th April.  There will be vote on the general principles of the Bill which, if successful goes on for more detailed scrutiny.

**It’s really important to write to you MSPs now.**   Public opinion does not support this Bill but MSPs need to hear this from us – the genuine public.

The easiest way to quickly write to all your MSPs is to use SPUC’s tool here: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/nobufferzonesscotland>

It’s important to *personalise* your email so do add your own experiences of being at vigils.  You may want to use some of these paragraphs:

·        The offences under the proposed Bill would make it illegal to offer women help and will criminalise prayer, including audible prayer and silent vigils. In England, Catholics have already been arrested for praying silently under similar laws to those being proposed in Scotland

·        Police Scotland have confirmed that the existing law is sufficient and no crime is associated with prayer vigils.  They told the Parliament that that their *“position remains that existing powers and offences (whether statutory or common law) are sufficient to address any unlawful behaviour”* and *“Our engagement with participants of such protests to date …. has not resulted in any criminality being identified.”*

If you prefer to write individual letters to your MSPs you can find them all here:  <https://www.parliament.scot/msps>   If you have time, this is more effective.