STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

# 1987 No. 463

# The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

## PART III

## STIRRING UP HATRED OR AROUSING FEAR

*Acts intended or likely to stir up hatred or arouse fear*

### Use of words or behaviour or display of written material

**9.**—(1) A person who uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or displays any written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting, is guilty of an offence if—

(a) he intends thereby to stir up hatred or arouse fear; or

(b) having regard to all the circumstances hatred is likely to be stirred up or fear is likely to be aroused thereby.

(2) An offence under this Article may be committed in a public or a private place, except that no offence is committed where the words or behaviour are used, or the written material is displayed, by a person inside a dwelling and are not heard or seen except by other persons in that or another dwelling.

(3) In proceedings for an offence under this Article it is a defence for the accused to prove that he was inside a dwelling and had no reason to believe that the words or behaviour used, or the written material displayed, would be heard or seen by a person outside that or any other dwelling.

(4) A person who is not shown to have intended to stir up hatred or arouse fear is not guilty of an offence under this Article if he did not intend his words or behaviour, or the written material, to be, and was not aware that it might be, threatening, abusive or insulting.

(5) This Article does not apply to words or behaviour used, or written material displayed, solely for the purpose of being included in a programme**[**[F1] included in a programme service.**]**

**F1** 1990 c. 42

**Changes to legislation:**
The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, Section 9 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.
View outstanding changes

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

– Instrument amended by 1998 c. 2 s.18(1)Sch.3 para.3

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:**
Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

– art.2(3)(b) amended by 1996 c. 26 s. 2(3)(4)
– art.2(3)(b) amended by 1996 c. 26 s. 2(3)(4)
– arts.5(2)66A7(1) revoked by 1998 c. 2 s.18(2)Sch.4