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Early Day Motions tabled on Wednesday 11 November 2020

Early Day Motions (EDMs) are motions for which no days have been fixed.

The number of signatories includes all members who have added their names in support of the Early Day Motion (EDM), including the Member in charge of the Motion.

EDMs and added names are also published on the EDM database at www.parliament.uk/edm

[R] Indicates that a relevant interest has been declared.

New EDMs

1118 Bathing water status of the River Thames in Oxford

Tabled: 11/11/20 Signatories: 1

Layla Moran

That this House acknowledges the ongoing sewage pollution in the River Thames; expresses concern over the health of people who swim in rivers containing sewage pollution; recognises that the River Thames is the only body of water available to many swimmers at a time when swimming pools have been forced to shut; urges the Government to grant the River Thames Bathing Water status in Oxfordshire; calls on the Government to act against sewage companies dumping sewage into rivers across the UK; and further calls on sewage and water companies to stop dumping waste into the River Thames and other affected rivers prior to Government intervention.

1119 Launch of Freeview Accessible TV Guide

Tabled: 11/11/20 Signatories: 1

Dr Lisa Cameron

That this House commends the launch of Freeview's Accessible TV Guide on Channel 555; recognises that this Guide is a key step towards the digital inclusion of people with disabilities, making programmes accessible to those with sight and hearing impairments; notes that this Guide meets all of OFCOM's Electronic Programme Guide requirements for disability inclusion such as incorporating a high contrast user interface, screen magnification and text to speech functionality that allow adaptation to individual requirements; and highlights the fact that this Guide has been developed in consultation with consumer groups and disability advocacy organisations and is available for free to all UK television users.

1120 Azerbaijan and Armenian peace deal

Tabled: 11/11/20 Signatories: 1

Bob Blackman

That this House welcomes the official signing of the peace agreement between the Governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia; congratulates both sides on reaching that agreement after 30 years of conflict; further welcomes the commitment of both parties to a lasting peace in that region; and wishes to show solidarity with the Azerbaijani people who have been resilient by publicly demonstrating in such huge numbers in support of their right to live in peace in their historical lands.

1121 Iran's Document on Judicial Security

Tabled: 11/11/20 Signatories: 2

**Jim Shannon
Paul Girvan**

That this House welcomes the document on judicial security signed by Iran's judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi; notes the pledges contained within it to ban torture, the use of forced confessions, solitary confinement, illegal police detentions, and other violations of defendants' rights; further welcomes the guaranteed consular access for foreign nationals as an indication of progression for human rights in Iran; and urges the Iranian Government and security forces to implement those changes as a matter of urgency.

1122 Just Transition campaign for offshore oil and gas workers

Tabled: 11/11/20 Signatories: 4

**Grahame Morris
Caroline Lucas
Ian Mearns
Mike Hill**

That this House welcomes the Offshore report published by Platform London, Friends of the Earth Scotland and Greenpeace based on results from a survey of nearly 1,400 predominantly upstream oil and gas workers on industry conditions and the green energy transition; notes that of those surveyed, 91 per cent had not heard of a Just Transition, 42 per cent had been made redundant or furloughed during the covid-19 pandemic and 81 per cent were considering jobs in other industries, particularly offshore wind, other renewables, decommissioning and carbon capture and storage; is concerned that over 9,000 jobs have been lost across the UK offshore oil and gas sector in 2020 without proper support for retraining and redeployment and that employers estimate a total of 30,000 jobs losses by October 2021; further notes that offshore oil and gas workers continue to face barriers to re-training for jobs in offshore renewables; believes that offshore oil and gas workers' transferrable skills are essential to delivering a just and rapid transition to low and zero emission energy sources; welcomes constructive coalitions between offshore workers, their trades unions and environmental groups in building public support for a Just Transition which puts jobs, skills, livelihoods and public ownership at the centre of tackling existential threats from climate change; and calls on the Government to meet with offshore energy workers, their trades unions and climate groups involved in the Offshore report to enshrine Just Transition measures in the forthcoming North Sea Transition deal.

1123 Mr Martin Francis O'Hara

Tabled: 11/11/20 Signatories: 1

Dr Lisa Cameron

That this House recognises the contribution to public life made by Mr Martin Francis O'Hara, a proud resident of East Kilbride, who in April 2021 will mark forty years of service to the Department of International Development and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); notes his role in the development, roll out, improvement and maintenance of human resources and payroll IT systems across those Government departments; highlights his role in training those subsequently tasked with implementing IT solutions in Government postings around the world; and draws particular attention to his work in 2013 in Bangladesh, overseeing the completion of the Shapla building which now provides a key base for FCDO teams in that country.

Added Names

Below are EDMs tabled in the last two weeks to which names have been added. Only the first 6 names and any new names are included.

1056 Students' mental health during the covid-19 outbreak

Tabled: 22/10/20 Signatories: 10

Mr Barry Sheerman
Clive Lewis
John McDonnell
Jonathan Edwards
Andrew Gwynne
Sir Peter Bottomley

Caroline Lucas

That this House recognises that immense strain that students are currently under with regard to covid-19 restrictions implemented across UK universities; recognises that the need for accessible and high-quality mental health provision is paramount for the welfare of students across the country; notes the profound impact that the current restrictions will have on the academic engagement for many students; urges the Government to consistently and deliberately review restrictions across all UK universities to determine their effectiveness in curtailing the spread of covid-19 and the impact that they are having on the welfare and academic performance of students; and further urges the Government to increase investment in high-quality mental health services across all universities, regions and countries of the United Kingdom.

1058 United Nations Day on 24 October 2020Tabled: **22/10/20** Signatories: **41**

Stephen Farry
Munira Wilson
Layla Moran
Clive Lewis
Andrew Gwynne
Gavin Robinson

Caroline Lucas

That this House joins in celebrating United Nations Day on 24 October 2020, marking the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Charter coming into effect; acknowledges the significant contributions made by the United Nations Organisation and the other agencies of the United Nations System to international peace and security, humanitarian protection and assistance, the promotion of human rights, economic, social and cultural co-operation, the global environment and climate change, sustainable development and tackling poverty along with many other interventions; stresses the importance of a rules based international order and international co-operation around shared global challenges; and calls on the Government to ensure that the UK plays a proactive, leadership role in pursuing reform to ensure that the United Nations can have a more enhanced and effective role over the years ahead.

1059 Cyprus 60th Independence Day and FamagustaTabled: **23/10/20** Signatories: **11**

Geraint Davies
Mr Virendra Sharma
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Sammy Wilson
Bob Blackman
Christine Jardine

Paul Girvan

That this House congratulates Cyprus on its 60th anniversary independence day and supports the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation with political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council Resolutions and the High Level Agreements; endorses the Declaration of the European Parliament of 14 February 2012 on the return of Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants; notes that the city of Famagusta in the Republic of Cyprus was captured by the invading Turkish forces in August 1974, that a section of Famagusta was then sealed off and remains uninhabited, under the direct control of the Turkish military, and that the return of Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants would facilitate efforts toward a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem; further notes the 1979 High Level Agreement and UN Security Council Resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992) and the 2008 Report of the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament on Petition 733/2004; calls on the Government of Turkey to act according to those UN Security Council Resolutions and Report Recommendations and return Famagusta to its lawful inhabitants, who must resettle under conditions of security and peace; urges the UK Government, as a guarantor power of Cyprus, to promote Turkey's cooperation and to forward this Resolution to President Nicos Anastasiades, Mr Ersin Tatar, the UN Secretary General and the Government of Turkey.

1060 Digital exclusion of asylum seekersTabled: **23/10/20** Signatories: **19**

Patrick Grady
Allan Dorans
John McDonnell
Alison Thewliss
Kenny MacAskill
Drew Hendry

Caroline Lucas

That this House recognises that asylum seekers in the UK receive cash support of £37.75 per week in the form of cash loaded on to an ASPEN debit card; notes that the Home Office describes this cash support as helping asylum seekers pay for essentials such as food, clothing and toiletries; considers that the ability to get online is also an essential need in modern society; appreciates that the need for online connectivity is particularly acute for asylum seekers, many of whom are vulnerable, isolated, and have family and friends trapped in dangerous conditions elsewhere around the world; regrets that many asylum seekers find themselves digitally excluded due to their inability to access affordable, reliable internet access through the asylum support system; understands that the ASPEN card system prevents asylum seekers from paying for efficient, low-cost mobile internet contracts through direct debit, and instead forces many to choose between purchasing prohibitively expensive pay-as-you-go data packages or affording other essentials such as food and toiletries; believes that it is grossly unfair that those with the lowest amount to live on are forced to pay the highest price to get online; thanks the Scottish Asylum Seeker Residents Association and Maryhill Integration Network for their work highlighting this important issue; and calls on the Government to widen the scope of asylum support system to ensure that asylum seekers can access affordable, reliable internet service, and provide a commensurate increase in the asylum support to cover these costs.

1064 Proposed closure of the Institute of Commonwealth StudiesTabled: **2/11/20** Signatories: **9**

Daisy Cooper [R]
Sir Peter Bottomley
Jim Shannon
Jamie Stone
Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Kim Johnson

Anne McLaughlin

That this House regrets the abrupt and unexpected decision to close the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICwS); encourages relevant stakeholders to reconsider this decision; notes that the ICwS stands at the heart of Commonwealth and Post-Colonial Studies; notes that the ICwS is the only postgraduate academic institution in the UK devoted specifically to the study of the Commonwealth; commends the ICwS as a national and international centre of excellence for policy-relevant research; notes that the ICwS provides the editorial and administrative office for the Human Rights Consortium, and the Refugee Law Initiative; recognises the role the ICwS plays as host to numerous interdisciplinary academic events, workshops and conferences; further regrets that the closure of the ICwS alongside the Institute of Latin American studies would be a critical blow to the School of Advanced Study, its staff, fellows and alumni; fears that this decision will do untold harm to Commonwealth and Post-Colonial Studies throughout the UK and further afield; notes that the decision will contribute to job losses in higher education institutions across the country; and calls for the immediate reversal of this decision.

1068 Nursing students placements during the covid-19 outbreak

Tabled: 2/11/20 Signatories: 16

Olivia Blake
Rachel Hopkins
Mick Whitley
Paula Barker
Grahame Morris
Ms Diane Abbott

Caroline Lucas

That this House notes that in the first wave of the covid-19 outbreak, student nurses were rewarded with pay for their contribution to the response to the outbreak; further notes that throughout the covid-19 outbreak student healthcare workers have regularly worked 40 hour weeks, without pay, sick leave or death-in-service coverage, in high-risk areas and often having to find alternative accommodation at cost to themselves to ensure they do not put their families at risk; and calls on the Government to recognise and reward the efforts of healthcare students, alongside healthcare workers, to keep the country going throughout the covid-19 outbreak by paying them a fair wage for the hours they have worked.

1069 WASPI women

Tabled: 2/11/20 Signatories: 25

Sir George Howarth
Andrew Gwynne
Jonathan Edwards
Claudia Webbe
Navendu Mishra
John McDonnell

Liz Saville Roberts

Hywel Williams

Caroline Lucas

That this House notes with great concern the continuing unfair treatment of WASPI women; further notes that many of the women concerned had no prior notice that their pensionable age and eligibility was to be pushed back; draws attention to the ongoing injustice of the situation which has placed many women into poverty, even though they had taken all reasonable steps to prepare for their retirement; and calls on the Government to put right this injustice.

1072 Entry into force of Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Tabled: 2/11/20 Signatories: 24

Caroline Lucas
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Kirsten Oswald
Hywel Williams
Tommy Sheppard
Jeremy Corbyn

Liz Saville Roberts

Claire Hanna

That this House notes that the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017; welcomes confirmation that 50 countries have now ratified this historic agreement which will enter into force in January 2021; further notes that upon entering into force the Treaty will ban nuclear weapons in participating states and generate international momentum towards global nuclear abolition; considers that the coming into force of this treaty offers the UK

an opportunity to engage with an emerging global nuclear disarmament process; further considers that the Government's stated commitment to global nuclear disarmament through its ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, can be put into practice by also supporting this Treaty; and urges the Government to sign the Treaty and to bring forward a credible and timetabled plan for the disarmament of the UK's nuclear weapons.

1079 Peter Krykant and drug consumption van facility

Tabled: 2/11/20 Signatories: 20

Alison Thewliss
Grahame Morris
Patrick Grady
Ronnie Cowan
Jim Shannon
Lloyd Russell-Moyle

Wendy Chamberlain

Kate Osborne

Caroline Lucas

That this House is concerned to learn that Peter Krykant, who recently set-up a drug consumption van in Glasgow city centre, has been charged and cautioned by Police Scotland; understands that Mr Krykant set up the facility in an attempt to help and support people with addictions; firmly believes that the work he is doing helps to reduce harm and save lives; is grateful for the action taken by a volunteer of the service to save the life of an individual recently by administering Naloxone; is aware that individuals are being driven to these types of interventions as a result of Home Office opposition to the establishment of a Supervised Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF); urges Ministers to view this critical issue not as a criminal justice one, but through the lens of public health and in the context of increasing numbers of drug-related deaths across the UK, in order to properly support people with addictions; and demands that the Government amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 immediately to allow for SDCFs to operate legally.

1080 Ethnicity pay gap reporting

Tabled: 2/11/20 Signatories: 16

Martyn Day
Patrick Grady
Sir Peter Bottomley
Jim Shannon
Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Ben Lake

Liz Saville Roberts

Hywel Williams

Caroline Lucas

That this House notes the efforts of Business in the Community to help cross-sector employers better understand ways that ensure the UK workplace is a place that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) employees, business owners, entrepreneurs and communities feel they belong; further notes the potential benefit to the UK economy is estimated at £24 billion annually if BAME individuals are fully represented across the labour market; notes its concern that racial disparities have been highlighted by the covid-19 pandemic; regrets that leadership and management roles across public and private sectors does not reflect equity of the BAME population; urges the Government to introduce mandatory ethnicity pay gap reporting alongside gender pay gap reporting; and further urges the Government to require employers to set and publish targets so that BAME individuals are better represented at senior levels.

1082 Future Social Care Coalition and support for care staff

Tabled: 2/11/20 Signatories: 16

Barbara Keeley
Ed Davey
Jim Shannon
Munira Wilson
Dr Lisa Cameron
Rosie Cooper

Caroline Lucas

That this House welcomes the launch of the cross party and cross sector Future Social Care Coalition and believes now is time for Government to support a fair deal for the social care workforce; notes that since the covid-19 outbreak social care workers are now seen as essential and not unskilled; is concerned that half of the 1.6 million social care workforce on the forgotten frontline earn less than the real Living Wage of £9.30 an hour or £10.75 in London, and thousands are still not paid in full for all the hours they work; further notes that a third of care staff leave their roles each year, up to a quarter are on zero hours contracts and that currently there are 112,000 staff shortages resulting in at least 1.5 million elderly and vulnerable people having unmet care needs and only 15 minute time and task visits; observes that staff shortages and high turnover affect the quality and continuity of care for service users, as does the low level of training and low pay many staff receive; contends that if we value those who are in care then we must value their carers; supports the Future Social Care Coalition's request for parity of esteem for the social care sector with the NHS and a long term social care funding solution; and urges the Government to establish an immediate £3.9 billion Emergency Support Fund to deliver greater skills training and a professional career structure as well as improved pay and conditions for social care workers.

1084 Immediate return of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori to the UK

Tabled: 2/11/20 Signatories: 20

Layla Moran
Wendy Chamberlain
Sarah Olney
Mr Alistair Carmichael
Jamie Stone
Daisy Cooper

Liz Saville Roberts
 Caroline Lucas

Hywel Williams
 Patricia Gibson

Claire Hanna

That this House condemns the unjust imprisonment of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori; notes the unfair sentencing of Anoosheh to 12 years imprisonment and summoning of Nazanin to court yet again; recognises the difficult and dangerous conditions that Nazanin is facing by being confined to remaining within 300 metres of her parents' house and Anoosheh in prison due to his vulnerability to covid-19; acknowledges the UK's historic role in standing up for British citizens wrongfully detained abroad; and therefore calls on the Government to make representations to the Iranian authorities for the immediate return of both Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori to the UK.

1086 Delays to NHS fertility services as a result of the covid-19 outbreak

Tabled: 2/11/20 Signatories: 21

Steve McCabe
Ms Harriet Harman
Caroline Lucas
Siobhain McDonagh
Layla Moran
Christine Jardine

Andy Slaughter

That this House acknowledges the delays to NHS fertility services caused by the covid-19 outbreak, and the distressing impact of these delays on fertility patients; further notes the imposition of strict female age limits for NHS-funded IVF by CCGs in England, which range from 34 to 42 years old; recognises that in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, commitments have been made to stop the clock for fertility patients to ensure they do not exceed age limits for NHS-funded IVF due to pandemic-related delays; shares concerns raised by BPAS Fertility, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists and others, that no such directive has been issued in England; further recognises that fertility patients in England are already subject to an unacceptable postcode lottery due to disparities between CCGs' commissioning policies, which commonly diverge from NICE guidance; urges the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to issue guidance to CCGs on the issue of covid-19 delays, to promote a standardised approach across England and offer reassurance to all fertility patients during the pandemic, regardless of where they live; and finally urges the Secretary of State to confirm in said guidance that fertility patients affected by the delays should not be disadvantaged as a result of their age, and no patient who has crossed an age threshold since fertility clinics were instructed to close on 23 March 2020 should be considered ineligible for care on that basis.

1087 Creating a welfare system that works for disabled people

Tabled: 2/11/20 Signatories: 11

Hywel Williams
Jonathan Edwards
John McDonnell
Jim Shannon
Liz Saville Roberts
Lloyd Russell-Moyle

Ben Lake

Caroline Lucas

That this House recognises the serious challenges and barriers disabled people face within the welfare system; further recognises the impact that the covid-19 outbreak has had on people with disabilities; notes that research by Scope has found that, on average, disabled people face extra costs of £583 a month; calls on the Government to use the upcoming Welfare Green Paper and National Disability Strategy to ensure that the welfare system works for disabled people by removing conditionality and sanctions for disabled claimants, removing the need for face-to-face assessments and replacing the Work Capability Assessment with a new assessment for financial support and a new, separate and optional assessment of employment support needs; and further calls on the Government to build on the temporary changes made to the welfare system during the covid-19 outbreak to make permanent improvements to the system.

1089 Places of worship

Tabled: 3/11/20 Signatories: 22

John Spellar
Sir Peter Bottomley
Jim Shannon
Paula Barker
Claudia Webbe
Ian Lavery

Catherine McKinnell

That this House recognises the considerable role played by places of worship of all faiths in providing support to communities and individuals; is deeply concerned at the impact on mental health and personal wellbeing, especially on the the elderly, of the closure of places of worship during the period of new national covid-19 lockdown restrictions; calls on the Government to publish the evidence that the banning of communal worship is an effective part of controlling the covid-19 rate of infection; and urges the Government to urgently engage with faith leaders to reach a better arrangement for the period of the new national covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

1092 Universal Basic Income pilots

Tabled: 3/11/20 Signatories: 52

Beth Winter
Ronnie Cowan
Jim Shannon
Kenny MacAskill
Jonathan Edwards
Claudia Webbe

Hywel Williams
 Caroline Lucas

Liz Saville Roberts

Anne McLaughlin

That this House acknowledges that the current system of social security provision in the UK is not sufficient to provide financial security nor protect public health during the covid-19 outbreak; asserts that the provision of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) would establish a targeted system with no gaps and an income floor that nobody could fall below, with the effect of reducing poverty without reducing the incentive to work; notes that local authorities and devolved Governments across the four nations of the UK have called for pilots of UBI in their communities; and calls on the Government to provide co-operation through the Treasury and the Department for Work and Pensions, in addition to financial support, to enable those pilots to take place.

1093 Elections for the Shura Advisory Council

Tabled: 3/11/20 Signatories: 11

Mr Alistair Carmichael
Sir David Amess
Mark Tami
Jim Shannon
Christine Jardine
Margaret Ferrier

Gavin Newlands

That this House welcomes the announcement by His Highness Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of Qatar, that the country will hold elections for its Shura Advisory Council next October;

recognises that these elections are an important step, as they will allow Qatari citizens to elect Shura Council members for the first time; expresses the hope for the fair and free conduct of these elections; and looks forward to further democratic reform in Qatar as a result.

1096 Free school meal vouchers during the covid-19 pandemic

Tabled: 4/11/20 Signatories: 13

Jon Trickett
Kim Johnson
Ms Diane Abbott
Navendu Mishra
Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Jim Shannon

That this House expresses dismay at the decision by the Government not to extend free school meals to eligible children during school holidays during the covid-19 outbreak; notes that the proposed second lockdown will plunge more families into poverty; notes that such a decision places over 11,000 children in Wakefield District and 1 million nationally at risk of going hungry during the school holidays; believes that such a decision highlights a lack of compassion and understanding of the challenges facing many working people across the country, who are increasingly struggling to make ends meet as a result of the covid-19 outbreak, forcing holiday hunger; applauds the actions of actions of Wakefield Council for committing to provide these children with food vouchers during the upcoming Christmas period and expresses gratitude to the vital role community organisations in Hemsworth constituency and elsewhere in the country have played during the October half-term break provide food to families and children who need it the most; and calls on the Government to provide funding to provide food vouchers for all children eligible for free school meals until the end of the Covid-19 pandemic and publish an action plan to end food poverty once and for all.

1097 Robert Fisk

Tabled: 4/11/20 Signatories: 8

Jonathan Edwards
Ben Lake
Ms Diane Abbott
Claudia Webbe
Sir Peter Bottomley
Hywel Williams

Liz Saville Roberts

That this House pays tribute to the contribution of renowned foreign correspondent, Robert Fisk following his death on 30 October 2020; notes that Mr Fisk began his career with the Sunday Express before working for the Times and finishing his career with the Independent; further notes that Mr Fisk reported on conflict around the world, becoming one of the most respected commentators on the Middle East; recognises that during his career, Mr Fisk won the International Reporter of the year on several occasions as well as a host of other awards for his work, including the Orwell prize and the Amnesty International media award; further notes that Mr Fisk was fearless in his reporting, basing his stories on first-hand experience as opposed to what authorities wanted him to report; and notes that his forthright despatches and his willingness to hold power to account will be missed.

1098 Falkland Islands mine-free declaration

Tabled: 4/11/20 Signatories: 9

Andrew Rosindell
Sir Mike Penning
Dr Julian Lewis
Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Sir Peter Bottomley
Andrew Gwynne

Alexander Stafford

That this House recognises the Falkland Islands will officially be declared mine-free on November 14 2020, fulfilling the UK's commitment of its clearance obligation under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention; notes that with this declaration the entire UK and her Overseas Territories will be mine-free; pays tribute to the members of the UK armed forces who contributed to mapping, fencing and clearing the minefields between 1982 and 2009 and the de-mining team from SafeLane Global Ltd who between 2009 and 2020 have destroyed over 10,000 mines and other items of unexploded ordnance; and understands that the project has released 23 million square meters of land allowing the access to large areas of ground which had been fenced off for 38 years.

1099 Duty and tax-free shopping

Tabled: 4/11/20 Signatories: 29

Gavin Newlands
Alyn Smith
Alan Brown
Martyn Day
Kirsten Oswald
Allan Dorans

Jim Shannon

Anne McLaughlin

That this House notes the recent Government consultation on the continuation of duty and tax-free shopping for visitors from outside the EU, including the published summary of responses which indicated a majority of respondents supported the continuation of the VAT Retail Export Scheme (VAT RES) and the airside Extra Statutory Concession (ESC); expresses concern that despite those responses, HM Treasury has indicated that it plans to scrap the RES and ESC schemes at the beginning of 2021; further notes that those schemes support hundreds of jobs at Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen Airports and across the wider Scottish retail and aviation sectors at a time when the economy faces its biggest set of challenges since World War Two; understands the removal of RES and ECS will directly result in the loss of hundreds of jobs in Scotland and thousands around the UK; and calls on the Government to abandon its plans to end RES and ECS and engage in real dialogue with businesses and trade unions on how best to support retail and aviation employment in the future.

1100 Support for hostels

Tabled: 4/11/20 Signatories: 20

Liz Saville Roberts
 Hywel Williams
 Patrick Grady
 Ben Lake
 John McDonnell
 Lloyd Russell-Moyle

Jim Shannon
 Richard Thomson

Wendy Chamberlain
 Caroline Lucas

Alyn Smith

That this House notes that hostels have been hit particularly hard by the covid-19 outbreak; further notes that shared spaces, such as bathrooms and kitchens, are often part of a hostel's business model and that this has made operating at full capacity, and even reopening, difficult for many while operating within the necessary public health guidelines; acknowledges that many hostels had viable business models and were flourishing before the covid-19 outbreak; recognises that many hostels play a key part in the rural economy, bringing visitors who support other local businesses; further recognises that in rural areas, hostels are often used by people who intend to take part in outdoor activities and that ensuring that people can still access healthy outdoor holidays at accessible prices will be important after the covid-19 outbreak; stresses that hostels must be supported so that they are ready to open and return to full capacity as soon as restrictions can be lifted; and calls on the Government to underpin health measures with economic support and urgently put packages of support in place for the hostel sector.

1101 Potential merits of a minimum wage floor in the furlough scheme

Tabled: 5/11/20 Signatories: 27

Richard Burgon
 Bell Ribeiro-Addy
 Kate Osborne
 Navendu Mishra
 Lloyd Russell-Moyle
 Olivia Blake

Jim Shannon
 Allan Dorans

Hywel Williams
 Caroline Lucas

Liz Saville Roberts

That this House notes with deep concern recent data from the Office for National Statistics showing that over 2 million workers have been paid less than the National Minimum Wage this year; further notes that this is a near five-fold increase on 2019; believes that it is unacceptable that anybody is ever paid less than the National Minimum Wage; notes that the ONS figures show that the vast majority of this increase in those paid below the minimum wage is the result of workers being put onto the furlough scheme; and calls on the Government to introduce a floor in the furlough scheme to ensure that no worker is paid less than the National Minimum Wage.

1102 Sports chaplain Steve Nash

Tabled: 5/11/20 Signatories: 8

Owen Thompson
 Sir Peter Bottomley
 Steven Bonnar
 Chris Law
 Drew Hendry
 Allan Dorans

Jim Shannon

That this House commends sports chaplain Steve Nash on his sterling work to provide wellbeing and mental health support to his local football team, Newtongrange Star; notes that Steve, a volunteer with wellbeing charity Thistle, has been drawing on his own experiences as he looks to support players at the club who may be suffering and in need of someone to talk to; further notes that during lockdown he maintained contact with players and staff by creating a regular chatty email covering topics including pacing, planning your day and being kind to ourselves and has continued this after lockdown with regular articles published by the club; and recognises the vital role sports chaplains play, as by having a chaplain, players can talk to someone in complete confidence about how they're feeling and any issues they are having and managers can focus on developing their players as a team.

1103 Ageing Well Midlothian voluntary group

Tabled: 5/11/20 Signatories: 6

Owen Thompson
 Chris Law
 Drew Hendry
 Allan Dorans
 Chris Stephens
 Jim Shannon

That this House congratulates Ageing Well Midlothian on winning the Health Walk Group of the Year at the 2020 Paths for All Volunteer Awards; understands that the group organises 15 walks each week and hosts an annual walk each year attracting people in the hundreds; further congratulates Ageing Well Midlothian on its 20th birthday recently; notes that the group was commended at the first ever Paths for All virtual awards ceremony hosted by BBC Scotland's Fiona Stalker on 4 November; and further notes that the Paths for All Volunteer Award is set up as an opportunity to say thank you to local volunteer groups and the people that run them.

1104 Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Tabled: 5/11/20 Signatories: 22

Kirsten Oswald
 Lloyd Russell-Moyle
 Sir Peter Bottomley
 Claudia Webbe
 Steven Bonnar
 Deidre Brock

Hywel Williams

Liz Saville Roberts

That this House notes that 25 years ago, on 8 November 1995, the Disability Discrimination Act received Royal Assent; recalls that this landmark piece of legislation was the result of a hard-fought campaign by disabled people, with up to 100,000 disabled activists taking part in direct

action, campaigning for equal rights and an end to the kind of societal discrimination that saw wheelchair users regularly banned from bars, cinemas and theatres under the guise of health and safety; records that, under this Act, for the first time, it became unlawful to discriminate against disabled people, as employees, customers and citizens using public transport or getting an education; considers that the Act was an important milestone and a recognition of disability equality and disability rights, but notes that many felt it did not go far enough; recognises that, despite it now being against the law, disabled people are still discriminated against, in work, in public places, for example by assistance dog owners being refused access to restaurants and taxis, and with huge swathes of public transport still inaccessible; and joins disability campaign groups in calling for a fresh look at the future of disability equality and what needs to change in all aspects of society, including what steps are needed to ensure that anti-discrimination laws are backed up by meaningful enforcement.

1105 Campaign for a real living wage

Tabled: 5/11/20 Signatories: 40

Chris Stephens
Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Claudia Webbe
Steven Bonnar
Andrew Gwynne
Kenny MacAskill

Rachel Hopkins [R]
 Liz Saville Roberts

Grahame Morris
 Hywel Williams

Jim Shannon
 Patricia Gibson

That this House welcomes Living Wage Week and the PCS Union campaign for a real living wage for their members working on outsourced Government facilities management contracts; applauds these front line key workers who have continued to work throughout the pandemic making workplaces safe and secure despite being some of the lowest paid workers across Government; is concerned that numerous Government Departments are yet to make the payment of the Living Wage a term of their facilities management framework agreements; is aware that the Cabinet Office Framework Schedule highlights social value and states that public authorities to have regard economic, social and environmental wellbeing in connection with public services contracts; notes that 75 per cent of businesses say the Living Wage has increased motivation and retention rates for employees; and 93 per cent of business have said that the Living Wage has benefited their business; and therefore calls on Government to meet their social value responsibilities and ensure that all Government workers on outsourced facilities management contracts are paid a real living wage.

1106 Midlothian winners of Scotland Loves Local High Street Heroes awards

Tabled: 5/11/20 Signatories: 8

Owen Thompson
Steven Bonnar
Chris Law
Drew Hendry
John Nicolson
Allan Dorans

Jim Shannon

That this House congratulates those Midlothian businesses that have been awarded in this year's Scotland Loves Local High Street Heroes Awards; notes that these awards seek to recognise and honour those local businesses who have supported their communities and provided essential services during the coronavirus pandemic; congratulates David Seez of Gravity Bottle Shop in

Penicuik, Danielle Finland of Carr Gomm Visiting Service, Nikki Sives, Manager of Carr Gomm Midlothian Visiting Service and the staff of Carr Gomm Midlothian Visiting Service on their receipt of the High Street Heroes Award; congratulates Asim Iqbal of Premier Convenience Store, Roslin and June Horne of Penicuik Ambassadors for being Highly Commended, and congratulates Penicuik Alliance for being awarded as Regional Champion; thanks the Scottish Government for supporting these awards through funding for Scotland's Towns Partnership; and notes that this year these awards received more than 1,200 nominations, which demonstrates how much people have appreciated those who have pulled together to help one another during these difficult times.

1107 Conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh

Tabled: 9/11/20 Signatories: 3

Layla Moran
Jim Shannon
Stephen Farry

That this House expresses deep concern regarding the current tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia; echoes the United Nations Secretary General's calls for maximum restraint, as a full conflict between those two countries would be disastrous; urges both sides to respect the ceasefire and work together with the OSCE Minsk Group to secure a peace deal; calls on the Government to support efforts to provide humanitarian aid to civilians affected by that conflict and to promote and protect human rights and the rule of law in that region.

1108 Pet travel and tick treatment

Tabled: 9/11/20 Signatories: 10

Kenny MacAskill
John McNally
Andrew Gwynne
Chris Stephens
Gavin Robinson
Jim Shannon

Martyn Day
 Paul Girvan

Sir David Amess

Patricia Gibson

That this House recognises the vital importance of improving the health and welfare of companion animals in the UK; notes with concern that there has been an increase in tick prevalence in the UK; and further notes reports of tick-borne diseases brought to the UK from pets that have recently travelled abroad; notes that the increase of tick-borne diseases could pose a serious danger to human and animal health; and urgently calls on the Government to ensure the re-introduction of compulsory tick treatments for all cats and dogs travelling to the UK from overseas under the Pet Travel Scheme.

1109 Increase in violence against women in Turkey

Tabled: 9/11/20 Signatories: 6

Joanna Cherry
Chris Stephens
Jonathan Edwards
Caroline Lucas
Jim Shannon
Liz Saville Roberts

That this House is extremely concerned about the eroding of women's rights in Turkey and notes the alarming increase of reported assaults and homicide against women over the past year; finds it concerning that that increase has occurred during a global pandemic which disproportionately impacts women economically; is concerned about the growing rhetoric of the Turkish Government and their officials including attacking women's rights and threatening withdrawal from the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention to tackle violence against women; fears that that rhetoric is leading to an acceptance of violence against women; notes that the abuse of women by security personnel is particularly a feature against Kurdish women and women active in the women's movement, trade unions and opposition political parties; encourages Turkey to implement the four pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution and coordinated policies underpinned in the Istanbul Convention; shows solidarity to those protesting in Turkey to protect women's rights and end the violence against women in their country; and calls on the UK Government to use its international influence to encourage the Turkish regime to end its dangerous rhetoric and fully implement the Istanbul Convention.

1110 Dismissals of app-based courier and private hire driver workers

Tabled: 9/11/20 Signatories: 42

Ian Byrne
Apsana Begum
John McDonnell
Kate Osborne
Dan Carden
Zarah Sultana

Jim Shannon
Christine Jardine

Kirsten Oswald
Rosie Cooper

Allan Dorans
John Spellar

That this House condemns the opaque and unjust process by which app-based couriers and private hire drivers working for companies such as UBER and Deliveroo can be blocked permanently from their accounts and thus effectively dismissed from their jobs; recognises that couriers and private hire drivers are key workers who are working on the frontline of the covid-19 pandemic and are often putting their own health at risk in the process; recognises that that practice of dismissal is leaving many key workers on low-incomes facing potential destitution; notes that transparency is lacking both in terms of what is expected of workers in those industries and around the reasons for their dismissal; further notes that workers are facing dismissal and destitution for reasons beyond their control such as technical issues with the company's app; notes that such dismissals can be triggered by unfounded customer allegations or traffic delays, regardless of the worker's length or quality of service; calls for all app-based companies to end unfair dismissals by implementing fair dismissal processes, including a hearing prior to dismissal, and the right to appeal a dismissal with union representation.

1111 Renters rights in the covid-19 pandemic

Tabled: 9/11/20 Signatories: 7

Ms Diane Abbott
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
John McDonnell
Chris Stephens
Kate Osborne
Apsana Begum

Jim Shannon

That this House notes the dispute between the tenants of Simpson House and Olympic House in Somerford Grove, Stoke Newington and their landlord Yiannakis Theophani (John) Christodoulou who is a Monaco-based British billionaire property developer, the owner of Yianis Group, a privately owned company with a portfolio of residential, hotel, retail and leisure properties in the UK and Europe; further notes the Government advice that As part of our national effort to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak it's important that landlords offer support and understanding to tenants who may start to see their income fluctuate but notes that the renters in Somerford Grove have not had support and understanding from John Christodoulou in line with that Government guidance although they have asked for fair and reasonable rent adjustments from their landlord; notes that, far from entering into negotiations, residents have been harassed and spied on; calls on landlords nationwide to negotiate with tenants experiencing income fluctuations because of the covid-19 pandemic; and further calls on John Christodoulou to enter into negotiations with his tenants for fair and reasonable rent adjustments in the light of the covid-19 pandemic.

1112 Wales World Cup of Darts champions

Tabled: 9/11/20 Signatories: 6

Jonathan Edwards
Hywel Williams
Chris Stephens
Ben Lake
Liz Saville Roberts
Jim Shannon

That this House congratulates Jonny Clayton and Gerwyn Price on winning the 2020 World Cup of Darts by defeating England 3-0 in that final; notes that this is the first time that Wales has won that competition; and wishes both players well for the rest of the season.

1113 VAT on facemasks and other personal protective equipment

Tabled: 9/11/20 Signatories: 12

Ms Diane Abbott
Jonathan Edwards
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Ian Lavery
Zarah Sultana
Apsana Begum

Jim Shannon

That this House notes that the Treasury has ended VAT exemptions for face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE); is concerned that increasing the price of masks and other PPE will discourage people from buying and wearing PPE in line with Government guidance; and urges

the Government to reinstate the VAT exemption for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic, as a vital public health measure.

1114 Dan Mihalache Romanian Ambassador to the United Kingdom

Tabled: 9/11/20 Signatories: 6

**Drew Hendry
Brendan O'Hara
Chris Stephens
Gavin Newlands
Alan Brown
Jim Shannon**

That this House pays thanks to Ambassador Dan Mihalache for his service as Romanian Ambassador to the United Kingdom; commends his strong role in improving the relationship, across all nations of the UK and between the UK and Romania; notes his passionate commitment to, and the valuable contribution of, the Romanian community in the UK along with his work to bridge gaps in the community; further notes that he is leaving this post in the coming weeks, and wishes him continued success in all of his future endeavours.

1115 Advertising-funded media tax credit

Tabled: 9/11/20 Signatories: 9

**John Nicolson
Jonathan Edwards
John McNally
Chris Stephens
Alyn Smith
Jim Shannon**

Steve McCabe

Ian Paisley

Martyn Day

That this House recognises the importance of commercial radio stations; commends the hard work of those radio stations during the covid-19 pandemic, not only as a reliable source of local news, but also to provide a friendly voice to many people living alone; acknowledges the financial difficulty that a large reduction in advertising spend can cause such radio stations; and calls on the Government to introduce an advertising tax credit for UK advertising-funded media.

1117 Jim Newell of East Kilbride

Tabled: 10/11/20 Signatories: 2

**Dr Lisa Cameron
Jim Shannon**

That this House celebrates the life of Jim Newell, a proud resident of East Kilbride, after hearing the news of his passing on 28 September 2020 at the age of 83; noting his service to the Royal Navy as a young man and his role in the strike by workers who refused to repair the airplanes of the Pinochet regime in Chile at the Rolls Royce factory in East Kilbride where Mr Newell worked for over 20 years; recognises his contribution to East Kilbride through his founding and tireless support of East Kilbride Thistle Football Team, through his performances as part of the Greenhills Pantomime Club and the Greenhill Male Voice Choir, and as a long standing member of Greenhills Parish Church; and draws particular attention to Jim and his wife Jessie's boundless hospitality and care for people most

in need through fostering over 100 children during his lifetime, through which they are truly an example to us all.