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Early Day Motions tabled on Monday 14 December 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

1266 Catering services and jobs on South Western Railway

Tabled: 14/12/20 Signatories: 1

Bell Ribeiro-Addy

That this House notes that South Western Railway (SWR) has terminated its on-board catering contract with Elior and that this decision puts over 130 catering workers at risk of being made redundant in January 2021; believes that the Job Retention Scheme, which is in operation until March 2021, should have been used to protect these jobs in the short term; is concerned that this decision will lead to the removal of catering services across the SWR network; believes that this will be detrimental to passengers and that the provision of on-board catering services must be protected across the network as part of rail's recovery from the covid-19 pandemic; notes that the cuts to catering are being made despite the SWR franchise being fully funded by the Government through an Emergency Recovery Measures Agreement (ERMA); further notes that the ERMA pays SWR a fee which can be used to fund profits and make dividend payments; and therefore calls on the Government to intervene to ensure this catering service and all at-risk jobs are protected.

1267 Arcadia employee pensions (No. 2)

Tabled: 14/12/20 Signatories: 1

Hywel Williams

That this House notes that Arcadia has gone into administration, potentially putting approximately 13,000 jobs at risk; recognises that approximately 10,000 members of Arcadia's pension scheme are being assessed for entry into the Pension Protection Fund; asserts that the £385 million pound agreement to support employees pensions which was concluded in 2019 must be protected; recalls Sir Philip Green's systematic plunder of former businesses including BHS; and calls on the

Government to ensure that Sir Philip Green fulfils his responsibilities to cover any pension shortfall among his employees.

1268 Western Sahara

Tabled: 14/12/20 Signatories: 1

Jeremy Corbyn

That this House recognises the right of the people of Western Sahara to their own self-determination; urges the UK as a member of the group of friends to redouble UN Security Council efforts to deliver the referendum on which the 1991 ceasefire in that region was contingent; stands in solidarity with the Sahrawi both in Western Sahara, the refugee camps in Algeria and the diaspora; deplores the unilateral action of US President Trump's administration supporting Morocco's illegal claim to occupy Western Sahara; and calls on the UK government to adhere to international law and refuse to follow the dangerous and illegal path that president Trump has embarked on in relation to Western Sahara.

1269 Lower carbon solutions to road repairs

Tabled: 14/12/20 Signatories: 2

Richard Burgon
Dan Jarvis

That this House recognises the environmental importance of lower carbon solutions to road repairs as part of wider environmental responsibilities; notes Yorkshire Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (YHAUC) and its members Barnsley MBC, Bradford MDC, City of York Council, East Riding of Yorks Council, Highways England, Hull CC, Kirklees MDC, Leeds CC, Network Rail, North Yorkshire CC, Rotherham MBC, Sheffield CC, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, Wakefield MDC and utilities Cityfibre, Cadent Gas, Northern Gas Networks, Northern Powergrid, Openreach BT, Virgin Media, Vodafone and Yorkshire Water; congratulates YHAUC for promoting the re-use and recycling of excavated road materials through its Quality Plan Framework for Recycled Materials which supports the circular economy, eliminates land-fill and the wasteful quarrying of new stone for roads; congratulates YHAUC and A Catlow Recycling & Aggregate Supplies, Mone Bros and other Yorkshire aggregate recyclers for supporting the achievement of 95 per cent reuse of Yorkshire Water's excavated road materials; welcomes YHAUC's drive for wider use of low carbon road surfaces using warm-mix and cold-mix asphalt and is concerned that there are highway authorities that re-use less than 50 per cent of excavations; emphasises the importance of reducing the environmental impact of road repairs; and calls on the Government and other highway authorities to reflect upon, and learn from, the successes in Yorkshire by YHAUC in its approach to lower carbon solutions to road repairs as part of a wider more environmentally responsible approach.

1270 50 years of the Hamilton Citizens Advice Bureau

Tabled: 14/12/20 Signatories: 1

Margaret Ferrier

That this House congratulates the Hamilton Citizens Advice Bureau, which is celebrating its 50 year anniversary; recognises their extensive work supporting the people of Hamilton and South Lanarkshire; highlights that in 2019-20 Hamilton Citizens Advice Bureau advised, represented and supported over 3,300 people, handled over 14,000 issues over 15 areas of advice and generated gains of £1.649 million for local communities in South Lanarkshire; applauds the Citizens Advice Bureau's participation in such projects as the South Lanarkshire Council Child Poverty Action Plan,

the South Lanarkshire Community Plan, the Fuel Poverty Working Group and the Lanarkshire PACE Strategy Group; and wishes the Hamilton Citizens Advice Bureau another 50 successful years of supporting the people of South Lanarkshire.

1271 Adequacy of local government funding

Tabled: 14/12/20 Signatories: 6

Claudia Webbe
John McDonnell
Apsana Begum
Zarah Sultana
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Richard Burgon

That this House is opposed to a new phase of austerity; believes that the Government must adequately fund local authorities to avoid disastrous social consequences; recognises that covid-19 is further stretching councils that are already under-funded and under-staffed following a decade of austerity; calls on the Government to honour its commitment to fund councils fully for the extra costs of dealing with the pandemic, and the losses of revenue resulting from lock-down; believes that local authority debt held by the Public Works Loan Board as an emergency measure should be cancelled to provide councils with an extra £4.5 billion spending power a year and help to stabilise their finances; encourages the Government to begin urgent discussions on a funding system based on an annual assessment of social needs in each locality; and calls on the Government to provide £10 billion annual grant to fund building 100,000 council homes a year, which is necessary not only to address the acute housing crisis but will provide economic stimulus as we come out of the pandemic by putting people back to work.

1272 Resale of gaming consoles and computer components purchased by automated bots

Tabled: 14/12/20 Signatories: 1

Douglas Chapman

That this House believes that new releases of gaming consoles and computer components should be available to all customers at no more than the Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price, and not be bought in bulk by the use of automated bots which often circumvent maximum purchase quantities imposed by the retailer; calls on the Government to bring forward legislative proposals similar to those introduced for the secondary selling of tickets, thereby prohibiting the resale of gaming consoles and computer components at prices greatly above Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price and furthermore this House; and further calls on the Government to bring forward legislative proposals making the resale of goods purchased using an automated bot an illegal activity, thereby denying unscrupulous vendors the chance to make themselves vast profits at the expense of genuine gamers and computer users, while also deterring fraudulent cybercriminal activity.

1273 Tackling homelessness

Tabled: 14/12/20 Signatories: 1

Grahame Morris

That this House deplores the exponential rise in recent years of homelessness across the UK, with core homelessness in England alone peaking before the Covid-19 pandemic at over 219,000

homeless households at the end of 2019; commends the determination behind the Everyone In initiative to provide safe accommodation for all during the pandemic; welcomes the additional specialist support funding for vulnerable people sleeping rough and the Changing Futures programme to provide better outcomes for adults experiencing multiple disadvantage; recognises the help provided by community and voluntary sector organisations, local authorities and substance misuse treatment services to support those with complex needs; urges an accelerated roll-out of the holistic, evidence-based Housing First approach; notes the immediate need for everyone to be kept safe and warm during the winter and pandemic; and calls upon the Government to provide the strategic planning and funding for co-ordinated cross-sectoral working to enable the elimination of homelessness.

1274 Recommendations on prison officer pay

Tabled: 14/12/20 Signatories: 16

Richard Burgon
Liz Saville Roberts
Gordon Henderson
Kenny MacAskill
Wendy Chamberlain
Jim Shannon

Grahame Morris
 Rebecca Long Bailey
 Mick Whitley
 Chris Stephens

Mary Kelly Foy
 Dan Carden
 Ian Lavery

John McDonnell
 Mohammad Yasin
 Paula Barker

That this House notes that the Government has rejected as unaffordable Recommendation 3 by the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) of a £3,000 pensionable pay rise for Band 3 prison officers on Fair and Sustainable conditions, the main operational recruitment grade into the Prison Service; further notes that the PSPRB considers Band 3 pay to compare poorly against other occupations in the same broad occupational group, and calculates the cost of new recruits leaving after less than two years at £30 million annually, which it calls an inefficient use of public money; further notes that the PSPRB was established in 2001 to compensate prison officers for the loss of their right to take industrial action in any form, and that, in response to a successful complaint by the Prison Officers Association (POA) to the International Labour Organisation in 2004, the Government committed only to depart from its recommendations in exceptional circumstances; further notes that the Government pledged in July to open discussions with recognised trade unions on the implications of this recommendation, yet no such discussions have taken place with the POA; believes that the decision to deny prison officers pay justice threatens to damage morale and exacerbate the current recruitment and retention crisis; questions whether the recommended award is genuinely unaffordable at a time when billions of pounds have been budgeted to build a new generation of private prisons; and calls on the Government to accept the PSPRB's recommendations in full.

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.

1210 Human Rights in Sri Lanka and the Relocation of the BBC Sinhala Service

Tabled: 30/11/20 Signatories: 7

Barry Gardiner
Jim Shannon
Sir Peter Bottomley
John McDonnell
Chris Stephens
Claudia Webbe

Marion Fellows

That this House notes the recent Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office reports that the human rights environment in Sri Lanka worsened, with the continuation of surveillance and intimidation of activists and human rights defenders, the detention without charge of a high profile human rights lawyer, and a presidential pardon of the only member of the armed forces convicted of a wartime atrocity; further notes the withdrawal of the Government of Sri Lanka's support for UN Human Rights Council resolutions 30/1, 34/1, and 40/1 on post-conflict transitional justice, accountability and reconciliation, coupled with the Sri Lankan military forming task forces operating beyond parliamentary scrutiny and being given oversight of civilian functions, as a result of the delays to parliamentary elections without the reconvening of the Sri Lankan Parliament; believes now is not the time to be re-locating the BBC Sinhala service to India with the consequent loss of jobs in the UK as well as the experience, continuity and ability to report impartially on events and to hold the government and military of Sri Lanka to account for their actions; and therefore urges the BBC to reconsider its decision.

1229 Australian Government response to online disinformation from China

Tabled: 2/12/20 Signatories: 10

Andrew Rosindell
Paul Girvan
Andrew Gwynne [R]
Sir Mike Penning
Wera Hobhouse
Christine Jardine

John Spellar

That this House notes with profound concern the social media post made by a Chinese Communist Party official which includes a digitally-created image depicting an Australian soldier cutting the throat of a child in Afghanistan; deeply regrets China's consistent and targeted spreading of disinformation through fabricated images, videos and disingenuous and mendacious statements; recognises that a concerted and collaborative international approach is required to tackle the disinformation being spread by China; commends the Australian Prime Minister's decision to demand an apology from China in relation to this latest shocking incident; and commits to standing shoulder to shoulder with our Australian friends and Commonwealth ally to protect our key interests and values, at home and overseas.

1231 Human Rights Day 2020Tabled: **2/12/20** Signatories: **9**

Margaret Ferrier
Jim Shannon
Stephen Farry
Sir Peter Bottomley
Jonathan Edwards
Neale Hanvey

Caroline Lucas

That this House notes that the world celebrates Human Rights Day 2020 on 10 December; further notes that this is a day to commemorate the UN General Assembly adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948; highlights that human rights are abused by repressive regimes across the world, whereby certain governments restrict freedom of speech and expression, continue to hold unfair trials and systematically persecute religious and ethnic minorities and LGBTI+ communities, among other incredibly serious violations; commits to working cross-party to uphold human rights in the UK and globally; and calls on the Government to work constructively with other sovereign states around the world to promote the universality of human rights.

1234 Priority groups for covid-19 vaccinationsTabled: **3/12/20** Signatories: **14**

Jon Trickett
Sir Peter Bottomley
Claudia Webbe
Ian Lavery
Paula Barker
Mick Whitley

Caroline Lucas

That this House pays tribute to the selfless role key workers have played throughout the covid-19 pandemic; notes that in addition to health and social care workers, workers in key occupations have an increased risk of exposure to covid-19, with ONS data showing that during the first wave of covid-19 security guards, taxi and bus drivers, cleaners, mechanics and retail workers were at greater risk of death from the virus; believes it is right that elderly and vulnerable citizens along with care home workers and health and social care workers are to be prioritised for the rollout of any covid-19 vaccine; further believes that all other key workers should be prioritised for a vaccine rollout in addition to the elderly, vulnerable and health workers; and calls on the Government to amend its interim advice on priority groups for covid-19 vaccination in order to reflect this.

1237 UN 16 Days campaign and GMB Work to Stop Domestic Abuse Charter

Tabled: 3/12/20 Signatories: 21

Sarah Owen [R]
Neale Hanvey
Claudia Webbe
Ben Lake
Hywel Williams
Liz Saville Roberts

Caroline Lucas

That this House marks the UN 16 days of activism against gender-based violence run from 25th November, UN International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10th December, Human Rights Day, highlighting the link between violence against women and human rights; notes that GMB union launched its campaign and GMB Work to Stop Domestic Abuse Charter two years ago; and further notes that domestic abuse is a workplace issue and employers including hon. Members should support the campaign.

1239 Debenhams and the Arcadia Group

Tabled: 3/12/20 Signatories: 24

Chris Law
Mohammad Yasin
Allan Dorans
Dave Doogan
Steven Bonnar
Sir Peter Bottomley

Caroline Lucas

That this House expresses its concern for the estimated 26,000 workers affected by this week's announcements by both Debenhams and the Arcadia Group that they will be entering administration; recognises that many of these workers will have worked for these companies for much of their life and may have to find new work in an extremely challenging job market; further expresses its concern for what this will mean for local High Streets and those in these companies' supply chains across the country who will be affected; calls on the Government to do what it can to ensure that pension pots are protected despite these announcements; and further calls upon the Government to work with trade unions and workers affected in ensuring that those affected are treated fairly and adequately throughout this process.

1249 Levels of statutory sick pay

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 36

Richard Burgon
Beth Winter
Tahir Ali
Mick Whitley
Mary Kelly Foy
Apsana Begum

Jon Cruddas
 Ian Lavery
 Stewart Malcolm McDonald

Andrew Gwynne
 Kenny MacAskill

Christine Jardine
 Caroline Lucas

That this House notes that for a test, trace and isolate system to be effective, people must be able to afford to isolate when required to do so; notes that the current level of Statutory Sick Pay is forcing many people to choose between having enough money to live on or self isolating, which undermines efforts to reduce the spread of covid-19; further notes that Statutory Sick Pay in the UK is among the lowest in Europe, estimated by the TUC to equal only one fifth of the average worker's weekly earnings; recognises that nearly 2 million low-paid workers are entirely excluded from Statutory Sick Pay because they earn less than £120 a week; is concerned by reports that more than half of people applying for the one-off £500 support grant to self-isolate are being rejected in some coronavirus hotspots, leaving many people without even that limited support; and calls on the UK Government to urgently increase Statutory Sick Pay to the level of the Real Living Wage and remove the requirement for recipients to earn over £120 per week so that every worker who needs to self isolate is supported to do so.

1251 Food insecurity

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 50

Ian Byrne
Olivia Blake
John McDonnell
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Beth Winter
Geraint Davies

Caroline Lucas

That this House notes that approximately 10 million people in the UK are experiencing food insecurity; further notes that the use of food banks was increasing before the covid-19 pandemic, has effectively doubled during the pandemic and all indications are that this situation will continue to get worse; is concerned that children in particular have been badly affected by the covid-19 crisis and that, according to Trussell Trust figures, the number of food parcels given to children rose by 52 per cent; acknowledges the profound and devastating consequences of food insecurity on the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of people in our communities; believes that the Government has a duty to ensure nobody in our communities goes hungry and that the "Right to Food" should be enshrined in UK law in order to make clear this obligation; and calls on the Government to set positive targets and monitor progress accordingly and include the "Right to Food" in the Government's National Food Strategy white paper which is due to be published in 2021.

1252 Government workers' pay

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 25

Rachel Hopkins
Beth Winter
Kate Osborne
Paula Barker
Grahame Morris
Mick Whitley

Caroline Lucas

That this House supports the Parliamentary petition signed by over 100,000 people for a fair pay rise for government workers and rejects the government's public sector pay freeze; notes that throughout the pandemic, government workers have delivered critical services that have kept our country safe and secure; further notes that the critical services that government workers have delivered include the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme, the court system, border security and the Universal Credit system; further notes that Civil Service pay has fallen in value by up to 20% over the past 10 years; further notes that government pay policy for 2020 restricted increases to between 1.5% and 2.5%; and calls on the government to provide government workers a 10% pay increase in 2020 as a recognition of some of the wages lost over the last 10 years and return pay bargaining in the Civil Service to the previous national pay bargaining system to ensure that all government workers receive a pay reward that reflects their dedicated hard work.

1257 Treatment of workers at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Tabled: 9/12/20 Signatories: 11

Grahame Morris
Rachel Hopkins
Claudia Webbe
Mike Hill
Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Navendu Mishra

Jim Shannon

David Mundell

Ian Lavery

That this House praises the contribution of workers for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) in France and Belgium, who care for and maintain the cemeteries to the highest possible standards; is deeply concerned that many of those workers have been faced with the option of relocating with just three weeks' notice or localising with the loss of up to fifty per cent of their incomes; notes that the housing market across the UK and most of Europe is disrupted by COVID-19 restrictions; recognises that the stress of uprooting families and finding a new home at such short notice is particularly acute at this time; calls for the Government to carry out a thorough review into all aspects of employment at CWGC, two decades on since that work was carried out under Baroness Dean; and further calls on the CWGC to urgently reconsider and enter into meaningful negotiations with the trades unions to ensure that those workers are treated with the respect they deserve.

1259 Human rights and democracy in Poland

Tabled: 9/12/20 Signatories: 26

Clive Lewis
 Claudia Webbe
 Andrew Gwynne
 Mr Virendra Sharma
 Wera Hobhouse
 Allan Dorans

Caroline Lucas
 Dr Rupa Huq

Ian Lavery
 Colum Eastwood

Beth Winter

That this House acknowledges and condemns human rights violations in Poland, in particular, attacks on the rights of women and LGBTQ+ minorities, including the near-total abortion ban that breaks the human right of freedom from torture, and disregards the bodily autonomy of women; supports the protection of LGBTQ+ families, and stands against the creation of LGBT free zones in Poland; condemns the new law which breaks people's right to assembly and protest by threatening protesters with 6 months to 8 years in prison, and the police brutality against peaceful protesters; recognises the judicial autonomy infringement and the breaking of the rule of law; decries the lack of freedom of the press, the politicisation of Polish media, financial censorship, and the creation of the index of the prohibited press in Poland; and calls on the Foreign Secretary to publicly support Polish women and minority groups as they seek to uphold democratic values in Poland.

1260 Terminal illness and Covid-19 vaccination

Tabled: 10/12/20 Signatories: 17

Kirsten Oswald
 Patricia Gibson
 Neil Gray
 Deidre Brock
 Richard Thomson
 Stewart Malcolm McDonald

Colum Eastwood

That this House recognises the devastating impact of being diagnosed with a terminal illness at any time but even more so just as the world faces into the Covid-19 pandemic; extends its sympathy to Fred Banning of Newton Mearns who, in February this year, was diagnosed with incurable stage 4 metastatic colon cancer resulting in Mr Banning and his wife not only struggling with the stresses and strains of lockdown but also having to break the news that he is dying to their two young children and their wider friends and family; considers that Mr Banning's call for those living with a terminal diagnosis and immediate family members to be a high priority for the administration of the vaccine to enable them to spend their remaining time as normally as possible has great force; and calls on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation to recognise the pressing needs of these members of our communities as they make recommendations on the rollout of a programme of vaccines in the days and weeks ahead.

1262 Rights for Freelance Workers in the Media and Creative Industries

Tabled: 10/12/20 Signatories: 23

Rebecca Long Bailey [R]
Grahame Morris
Mike Hill
Rachel Hopkins
Ian Byrne
Apsana Begum

Mick Whitley
 Jonathan Edwards

Kevin Brennan
 Steven Bonnar

Ian Lavery
 Colum Eastwood

That this House is concerned by the severe hardship which Covid-19 has caused for many freelance and self-employed workers; notes that the media and creative industries represent a major growth sector which is worth more than £111 billion to the UK economy, yet freelance workers in the sector have been left bereft of the many rights most employees take for granted; welcomes the National Union of Journalists' #FairDeal4Freelances campaign and the publication of the Freelance Charter, which seeks redress for those missing out on financial assistance during Covid-19 and to fight for a radical reform of our rights to ensure job protection and benefits are not dependent on employment status; calls for the right to organise in a trade union, to have a written contract with fair terms and conditions, prompt payment and equal treatment at work in terms of health and safety; believes that freelancers should get holiday pay, parental leave and allowances and a retirement pension; and further believes that they should have the right to resist companies forcing them on to PAYE, to incorporate as a limited company, or work under umbrella companies.

1263 Migrant Workers' Rights

Tabled: 10/12/20 Signatories: 16

Nadia Whittome
Ms Diane Abbott
Olivia Blake
Ian Byrne
Stuart C McDonald
Jeremy Corbyn

Ian Lavery

That this House would like to thank migrant workers who have been at the forefront of the UK's response to the pandemic; believes that recovery from covid-19 must level up migrant workers' rights; further recognises that the Hostile Environment, particularly No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and the "illegal working" offence, forces migrants to continue go into work even when it is not safe to do; is concerned that the illegal working offence pushes undocumented migrants to look for employment among exploitative employers who know they are unable report abuse in the workplace for fear of immigration enforcement; expresses further concern that the illegal working offence disincentivises employers from hiring migrant workers and creates a culture of discrimination in employment practices; notes that the exploitation of migrant workers in the labour market drives down labour standards and protections for all workers; and calls on the Government to implement the recommendations in the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants "Work It Out" campaign by scrapping NRPF and repealing the "illegal working" offence.

1264 Bus worker safety during the covid-19 outbreak: Control measures and enforcement

Tabled: 10/12/20 Signatories: 8

Nadia Whittome
Mike Hill
Olivia Blake
Ms Diane Abbott
Claudia Webbe
Kenny MacAskill

Ian Lavery

Jonathan Edwards

That this House commends the dedication of the UK's bus workers who have kept services running throughout the pandemic for other key workers and essential travellers; notes that tragically, a number of bus workers have died from Covid-19; further notes that Government's covid-19 support for bus operators in England since March 2020 totals at least £600 million; believes it is vital that there is a consistent approach to bus worker health and safety across the industry; understands that bus workers have concerns regarding cash handling and the lack of enforcement of social distancing and face coverings on buses; notes that on the rail network, British Transport Police are patrolling services to ensure compliance with face coverings; supports the RMT union's calls for the police, industry and government to put robust plans in place to ensure that compliance with face coverings on buses is also enforced; and calls on the Government to ensure there is a consistent industry-wide approach to these issues, publish any evidence it has regarding the potential risks associated with cash handling and covid-19 transmission and set out how social distancing and the wearing of face coverings will be enforced on buses, and by whom.