



Published: Wednesday 9 September 2020

Early Day Motions tabled on Tuesday 8 September 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

860 Employment practices on redundancy and rehiring

Tabled: 8/09/20 Signatories: 6

Gavin Newlands
Grahame Morris
Chris Stephens
Sam Tarry
Drew Hendry
Kirsten Oswald

That this House notes with alarm the growing number of employers, especially in the retail, hospitality and aviation sectors, who are making employees redundant before re-employing them on less-favourable terms and conditions; believes that these employers are cynically using the covid-19 crisis as cover to reduce staff costs at a time when they should instead be focused on supporting their employees through this pandemic; agrees with Unite the union and others that this fire-and-rehire practice makes a mockery of workers' rights and goes against the spirit, if not the letter, of UK employment legislation; and calls on the Government to close this legal loophole as a matter of urgency, for example by amending the Employment Rights Act 1996 to specify that such redundancies should automatically be regarded as unfair dismissals.

861 Universal Service Obligation

Tabled: 8/09/20 Signatories: 5

Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Zarah Sultana
Ms Diane Abbott
Apsana Begum
Claudia Webbe

That this House recognises that the ongoing covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the severity of the digital divide prevalent in the UK; notes that part of the problem that exasperates the digital divide is slow or poor broadband connection; further notes that part of the solution to improving broadband is to upgrade or build a new network; notes with concern that the costs of building a new network is often high and furthers the digital divide as better network connection becomes reliant on available income; recognises that the Government's Universal Service Obligation offers an attempt to bridge the digital divide by upgrading broadband connection for legible households and providing £3,400 worth of funding for upgrading infrastructure; notes that this funding is inadequate and that the costs of building a new network often far exceeds £3,400; calls on this Government to recognise the severity of the digital divide in the UK and provide further funding for households to build a new network to improve broadband speeds.

862 Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of Hardie & Baird of the 1820 Radicals

Tabled: 8/09/20 Signatories: 1

Kenny MacAskill

That this House commemorates the deaths of Andrew Hardie and John Baird, who died on 8 September 1820; recalls that they were the last people hanged and beheaded in the UK and were executed on charges of high treason; recognises the various events across Scotland that have been postponed due to the pandemic; and recalls the foresight of them, and of all the 1820 Radicals, in their campaign for democracy, universal suffrage and the rights of working people.

863 Post-Covid-19 support

Tabled: 8/09/20 Signatories: 1

Carol Monaghan

That this House is concerned that many individuals who contracted covid-19 are continuing to be affected by the virus many months after their initial infection; notes that these post-viral symptoms can include: extreme fatigue, dizziness, severe headaches and muscular pain, inability to concentrate and post-exertional malaise; further notes that exercise can amplify these symptoms; recognises that many of these symptoms are familiar to those suffering from post-viral conditions, such as myalgic encephalomyelitis; calls on the Government to make a clear statement that increasing levels of exercise may have adverse long-term health effects for those recovering from covid-19; and urges the Government to make a statement on the financial support that will be made available for people who are currently unable to return to work as a result of post-Covid-19 symptoms.

864 Researching and supporting people with long Covid-19 symptomsTabled: **8/09/20** Signatories: **9**

Andrew Gwynne
Layla Moran
Caroline Lucas
Tony Lloyd
Clive Lewis
Rosie Duffield

Rosie Cooper

Munira Wilson

Ian Byrne

That this House recognises that around 10 per cent of people experience prolonged illness after covid-19 and calls upon the Government to urgently collect and regularly report on the number of those living with long covid by following up on those with confirmed or clinical diagnoses of covid-19; notes that research into the disease should encompass both those who were and were not hospitalised to understand the true scale of the morbidity of the virus; and calls on the Government to swiftly consider and implement measures to support those living with long covid, including offering information and incentives to employers to retain their recovering staff who may or may not have confirmed cases due to limitations in testing, and ensuring that the NHS can support patients in their longer term recovery.

865 Administration of EstatesTabled: **8/09/20** Signatories: **1****John Stevenson [R]**

That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that the Wills Act 1837 (Electronic Communications) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2020 (S.I., 2020, No. 952), dated 4 September 2020, a copy of which was laid before this House on 7 September 2020, be annulled.

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.

722 Government support for asylum seekersTabled: **14/07/20** Signatories: **16**

Hywel Williams
Jim Shannon
John McDonnell
Gavin Robinson
Jonathan Edwards
Ben Lake

Paula Barker

That this House is concerned about the current provisions provided by the Home Office to support those seeking asylum throughout the pandemic; asks the Government to review the current claiming system and modify it to allow for an asylum claim to be made remotely; demands that the financial support provided by the Government is increased by at least £20 per week to reflect the emergency changes made to the standard rate of universal credit and the increasing prices for essential goods; calls on the Government to review the current accommodation provided to asylum

seekers to ensure that all accommodation allows for social distancing and self-isolation to align with the guidance given by the Department for Health and Social Care; and further calls on the Government to provide sufficient cleaning and personal hygiene supplies to prevent the spread of the virus in any shared accommodation.

743 Funding for universities

Tabled: 20/07/20 Signatories: 22

John McDonnell
Jim Shannon
Paula Barker
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Mick Whitley
Richard Burgon

Ian Byrne

Andrew Gwynne

Alan Brown

That this House calls on the Government to provide vital funding for universities that are under mass financial strain; notes this is not an unexpected side effect from the covid-19 outbreak, but that the outbreak has worsened pre-existing problems resulting from a lack of financial Government support of higher education and the marketisation of education; further notes that thirteen universities, as found by the ISF, will face bankruptcy without a Government bail-out; recognises that SOAS University, the only higher education institution in the UK specialising in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, is currently facing a mass restructuring as a result of long term financial strain that has worsened with the covid-19 outbreak; and calls on the Government to take action to provide essential support for those institutions.

773 Town and Country Planning

Tabled: 21/07/20 Signatories: 50

Keir Starmer
Mike Amesbury
Steve Reed
Thangam Debbonaire
Kate Hollern
Mr Nicholas Brown

Layla Moran

Wera Hobhouse

Sir Edward Davey

That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that The Town and Country Planning (Permitted Development and Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 (S.I., 2020, No. 632), dated 23 June 2020, a copy of which was laid before this House on 24 June 2020, be annulled.

797 Reinstatement of IKEA shop steward Richie Venton

Tabled: 1/09/20 Signatories: 36

Chris Stephens
Patrick Grady
Gavin Newlands
Ronnie Cowan
Paula Barker
Grahame Morris

Owen Thompson

Angus Brendan MacNeil

That this House condemns the sacking of IKEA Glasgow USDAW Shop Steward and convenor Richie Venton for carrying out his duties as an elected workers' representative who sought to prevent hardship, while protecting workers' health during the ongoing covid-19 pandemic; notes Mr Venton opposed IKEA's plans to remove wages from workers self-isolating as a result of covid-19; further notes employees excluded from IKEA's sick benefit had to live on £95 statutory sick pay; is concerned that Mr Venton's efforts to raise with management his concerns that financial hardship could force employees to make the incorrect decision to come into workplace while unwell, potentially spreading the virus, were ignored; opposes any attempts by IKEA to change the terms in conditions in employees' contracts which would reduce worker's rights, including efforts to limit sick benefit entitlement; urges IKEA to give consideration to the suggestion of an average wage; and demands that IKEA immediately reinstate life-long trade unionist, and campaigner for worker's rights, Richie Venton to his role within their organisation and his elected union position.

802 Roadchef Employee Benefit Trust

Tabled: 1/09/20 Signatories: 13

Neil Gray
Jim Shannon
Jonathan Edwards
Alison Thewliss
Chris Stephens
Chris Law

Margaret Ferrier

Sir Desmond Swayne

Fiona Bruce

That this House deplores the failure to date of HMRC to propose a resolution to the dispute with the Roadchef Employee Benefits Trust; notes that Honourable Members and Ministers have been informed by HMRC that they are seeking a resolution but regrets HMRC's considerable delay in proposing a resolution, further notes that the scandal affecting over 4000 mainly low paid catering and cleaning staff working at Roadchef Motorway Services including Norton Cranes, Taunton Dene, Tibshelf, Sandbach, Clacket Lane, Strensham, Rownhams, Killington Lake, Pont Abraham, Annandale Water and Harthill has been ongoing for over 30 years; is saddened to note the recent death of Tim Warwick the Company Secretary who exposed the Roadchef share scandal perpetrated by former Chief Executive Tim Ingram Hill; notes that other beneficiaries have also died waiting for HMRC to decide what tax, if any, they and the Trust should be liable for despite Parliament's intention that such employee benefits schemes should be tax free; calls on the Chief Executive of HMRC to meet with the Trust with proposals to resolve this matter urgently; and calls on the Government to propose legislation to protect participants of employee benefit schemes from the unscrupulous actions of trustees as occurred in the Roadchef case.

816 VAT on sunscreen

Tabled: 1/09/20 Signatories: 16

Patricia Gibson
Stephen Farry
Paula Barker
Ronnie Cowan
Jim Shannon
Liz Saville Roberts

Margaret Ferrier

That this House calls for sunscreen to be reclassified as an essential healthcare item and therefore be exempted from VAT, given the important role it plays in preventing serious health conditions like skin cancer; understands that sunscreen is currently classified as a cosmetic product in the UK and is therefore subject to 20 per cent VAT, which adds around £1.50 to the cost of each bottle; recognises that Cancer Research UK has concluded that being sunburnt once every two years can triple the risk of melanoma skin cancer, and that melanoma skin cancer incidence rates have more than doubled in the UK since the early 1990s; and calls on the UK Government to therefore take action to remove VAT on this essential product to make it more affordable and to encourage people to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.

818 Supporting grieving families through a bereavement standard

Tabled: 1/09/20 Signatories: 39

Grahame Morris
Rebecca Long Bailey
Andrew Gwynne
Apsana Begum
Jon Cruddas
Kate Hollern

Tommy Sheppard

Deidre Brock

Colum Eastwood

That this House calls on the Government to introduce a Bereavement Standard to simplify and streamline the process for grieving families to close accounts with service providers following the death of a loved one; believes the lack of such a standard has created a complex array of arrangements with each service provider requiring different levels of information to close accounts; notes that it can often take weeks, months, and in the worst cases years to close down accounts prolonging the pain and suffering for a family in mourning; further notes that the four simple campaign aims would support families as well as streamlining the process and providing a level playing field for business by introducing standardised paperwork to close an account, accepting digital death certificates, wills and proof of beneficiary status where possible, dedicated bereavement customer care channels (email, chat, webforms) to avoid long call waiting times, an agreed timeframe for companies to respond and settle accounts, and agreed bereavement customer service behaviours supported by adequate training; and urges the Government to work immediately with industry to introduce a Bereavement Standard to support grieving families, many of whom have been impacted recently by COVID-19, through one of the most difficult times in their lives.

832 Climate and Ecological Emergency BillTabled: **2/09/20** Signatories: **50**

Caroline Lucas
Clive Lewis
Alan Brown
Wera Hobhouse
Liz Saville Roberts
Claire Hanna

Tim Farron
 Jeremy Corbyn

Colum Eastwood

John McDonnell

That this House expresses profound alarm at the climate and ecological emergency, with wildfires raging in California, and ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica melting in line with worst case scenario predictions for sea level rise according to a study by the University of Leeds and the Danish Meteorological Institute; acknowledges that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" are needed in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C; is concerned that the target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050 in the 2008 Climate Change Act has been overtaken by the accelerating crisis; welcomes the presentation of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill, formally known as the Climate and Ecology Bill; notes that it would ensure that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperatures to 1.5°C, by taking account of the UK's entire carbon footprint, including consumption emissions released overseas as a result of goods manufactured abroad for use in the UK; further notes that it would actively improve the natural world by protecting and restoring the UK's ecosystems, and ending the damage to nature caused by supply chains; highlights that the Bill establishes a Citizens' Assembly to recommend measures for inclusion in a new Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy; and calls on the Government to support the Bill to increase the ambition of the UK's climate legislation and demonstrate real climate leadership ahead of co-hosting the 26th UN Climate Change Conference in 2021.

833 Remembering Featherstone Massacre 1893Tabled: **3/09/20** Signatories: **12**

Jon Trickett
Paula Barker
Allan Dorans
Mick Whitley
Clive Lewis
Ian Lavery

Kate Osborne

That this House remembers the atrocities which took place in Featherstone, West Yorkshire on 7th September 1893; notes with sadness the 6 injured and two killed, named James Gibb, 22, and James Duggan, 25, after the army was ordered to fire shots into a crowd of miners and their families, who were fighting against a 25% cut in pay which would have plunged so many into poverty, whilst the coal owners tried to squeeze out more profits; highlights that the historic struggle for workers' rights and fair pay is part of the rich tapestry of British working class history; and this House seeks to continue to learn the lessons of imposing poverty pay, unfair working conditions and even violence on working communities, especially in light of the recent covid-19 pandemic.

834 Protection of retail workersTabled: **3/09/20** Signatories: **11**

Robert Halfon
Allan Dorans
Caroline Lucas
Jonathan Edwards
Dr Julian Lewis
Chris Stephens

Paula Barker

Margaret Ferrier

That this House recognises the need to protect our retail workers; further recognises that retail workers are too often subjected to abuse, threat and assault; acknowledges the difficulties of hardworking retail employees such as residents in the constituency of Harlow, who have faced this behaviour; notes that retail workers have faced significant health risks during the coronavirus pandemic; praises the service that retail workers have provided throughout the current crisis; and calls upon the Government to introduce legislation that makes it a punishable offence to abuse, threaten or assault a retail worker.

835 West Midlands GigafactoryTabled: **3/09/20** Signatories: **7**

Liam Byrne
Colleen Fletcher
Jim Shannon
Tahir Ali
John Spellar
Claudia Webbe

Steve McCabe

That this House notes that the West Midlands was the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution; notes that our country must now lead the Green Industrial Revolution; further notes that the West Midlands is a global centre of battery technology for Electric Vehicles, and is already home to the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre in Coventry; recognises that our future leadership in this industry requires in the West Midlands the creation of a Gigafactory; and calls on the Government to take immediate steps to outline the next stages of building a world leading plant, along with a timetable for action and the investment envelope the UK Government is prepared to make available.

836 Merchant Navy Day 2020Tabled: **3/09/20** Signatories: **14**

Mr Alistair Carmichael
Mick Whitley
Allan Dorans
Grahame Morris
Ben Lake
Sir Edward Davey

Paula Barker

That this House recognises Merchant Navy Day 2020; honours the men and women who support UK supply lines, responsible for more than 90% of the UK's imports, including almost half the food we eat, much of the fuel we use, and virtually all the products and goods we tend to take for granted; notes that in 2019 an estimated 22,440 UK seafarers were active at sea; highlights

the merchant navy's longstanding and proud connection to island and coastal communities; notes that merchant navy sailors and officers play a vital role in our economy which has been amplified during the current crisis; further notes that the global economy and the financial recovery after the pandemic relies on maritime trade, for food, fuel, medicines and other essential goods; and calls on the government to do all it can to support seafarers who have had to face extended hardship this year separated from their families, and for the UK to lead the way in international cooperation for seafarer welfare.

837 Poland anti-LGBTQ+ legislation

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 5

Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Paula Barker
Claudia Webbe
Jonathan Edwards
Mick Whitley

That this House condemns the anti-LGBTQ+ ideology promoted by Poland's recently re-elected President, Andrzej Duda; decries the rhetoric used by President Duda during his election campaign, and his first term of Presidency, which demonstrates homophobia promoted by the highest levels of government in Poland; is concerned that this anti-LGBTQ+ attitude is also being reflected by the governments of Hungary and Russia, both of whom have recently passed legislation to suppress LGBTQ+ rights; and urgently calls on the Government to publicly condemn the Polish Government and their anti-LGBTQ+ attitudes, and other nations seen to display similar attitudes.

838 Recurring charges made by retailers

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 8

Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Jim Shannon
Tahir Ali
Paula Barker
Claudia Webbe
Jonathan Edwards

Kate Osborne

Mick Whitley

That this House notes that in recent years, the use of continuous payment authorities, subscription payments that enable the merchant to take payments from a customer's account on dates of their choosing and for different amounts without seeking further authorisation from them, has increased; notes that many people are left unaware that they have signed up to a continuous payment authority and have had recurring charges made to their bank accounts without their full knowledge; calls on the Government to introduce protections similar to the Direct Debit Guarantee for continuous payment authorities; and further calls on the Government to introduce more responsibility on the merchant to ensure customers are fully informed of what a continuous payment authority entails and that they are signing up to one.

839 Funding for charity medical research

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 8

Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Jim Shannon
Tahir Ali
Paula Barker
Claudia Webbe
Kate Osborne

John McDonnell

Mick Whitley

That this House notes that charities play a vital role in funding medical research for many chronic conditions and life-threatening illnesses; further notes that the covid-19 outbreak has placed a financial strain on the charity sector which has seen a reduction in donations during the outbreak; acknowledges the importance of the Government's April 2020 announcement to increase funding for charities by £750 million to help save the charity sector; notes that this is not enough to sustain funding for vital research projects; recognises that it would be a great loss to the scientific community and to society if medical research must be postponed or cancelled due to insufficient funds; and urgently calls on the Government to introduce further financial support for the charity sector to protect medical research funded by charities.

840 LoveMilton

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Anne McLaughlin
Jim Shannon

That this House appreciates the work of LoveMilton during the covid-19 outbreak; notes that the organisation has been serving families in the Milton area of Glasgow with food parcels, holiday hunger lunch packs and activities during lockdown; appreciates the difference that this service has made to families; notes also the extensive range of online activities provided by the service, such as online cooking classes, fitness classes and one-to-one support for young people; appreciates the contributions this organisation has made in preventing isolation and tackling issues such as healthy eating and at-home schooling; and wishes them every success in the future.

841 Covid diaries and scavenger hunts in North Glasgow

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Anne McLaughlin
Jim Shannon

That this House congratulates North Glasgow Community Food Initiative for their work during the covid-19 lockdown; notes that the organisation received Scottish Government funding to provide emergency food provision and activity packs for children during the pandemic; appreciates that the organisation provided these services to families in Milton, Springburn and Royston, and provided food for around 150 people a week; notes that they delivered 665 activity packs to date, to children and young people across the local area, with activities so far ranging from indoor and outdoor scavenger hunts to covid diaries; from wildflower seed bombs to chocolate Rice Krispie cake kits; further appreciates the organisation's focus on sustainable food provision through growing food in community gardens and providing seeds and advice to the community; and wishes them every success in the future.

842 Powerful response in Possilpark

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Anne McLaughlin
Jim Shannon

That this House congratulates Young People's futures in Possilpark on their response to the covid-19 outbreak; understands that they have worked extremely hard to provide families and individuals with breakfast packs, activity packs for children and over 50 hot meals delivered daily since the beginning of the outbreak; understands that in partnership with the Scottish Book Trust the organisation also distributed reading books around Possilpark and surrounding areas; appreciates that these services provide a lifeline for people impacted by lockdown; and wishes them every success in the future.

843 Voluntary work to support north Glasgow babies children and parents

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Anne McLaughlin
Jim Shannon

That this House congratulates North Glasgow Baby Bank on providing essentials to young families before and during the covid-19 pandemic; understands that they have provided formula milk, baby food and other essentials for hundreds of families across the north of Glasgow and appreciates the contribution they have made to the community, and the environmental as well as financial impact of reusing baby clothes and toys; appreciates that the project is run by four magnificent volunteer co-ordinators, Catherine Yuill, Gemma Coyle, Maggie Watson and Tracy Pender; and thanks these volunteers for all their hard work around the clock and wishes them all the very best in future endeavours.

844 Springburn rises to the challenge of covid-19

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Anne McLaughlin
Jim Shannon

That this House congratulates Springburn Community Council who, in conjunction with Springburn Parish Church and the Salvation Army made tremendous efforts to support the Springburn community during the covid-19 outbreak; understands that those organisations have worked in unison and around the clock to provide whatever support was required by vulnerable people during lockdown; appreciates that their Food Hub has so far delivered thousands of food packages to people in need, alongside toiletries, prescription medicine, sanitary products and other essential items; appreciates that the church has been used as a hub for the welfare of people in the area since the end of March; and thanks all volunteers for their tireless efforts.

845 CCRC review of Oliver Campbell's case

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Mr Barry Sheerman
Jim Shannon

That this House welcomes the decision of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) to reconsider objectively, independently and professionally the case of Oliver Campbell, who has severe learning difficulties and whose conviction in 1990 for murder was based on a confession extracted in an oppressive manner at a trial where the jury did not know that his co-defendant had

exonerated him in an interview with police; encourages the CCRC to refer the case to the Court of Appeal to enable Oliver's conviction to be quashed and wishes to give special thanks to Oliver Campbell's former MP, Sandy Martin, who brought the House's attention to the case of Oliver Campbell through a Westminster Hall debate in the summer of 2019.

846 Brain tumour awareness and research

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 7

Kirsten Oswald
Mr Alistair Carmichael
Patricia Gibson
Jim Shannon
Tahir Ali
Alyn Smith

Bob Blackman

That this House calls for an increase in both awareness of and research into brain tumours; notes that this type of cancer presently receives less than 3 per cent of the UK's cancer research budget despite being the biggest cancer killer of children and adults under 40; specifically recognises the need to raise awareness of diffuse midline glioma, commonly known as DIPG, the second most common type of primary high-grade brain tumour found in British children; expresses concern that treatment for DIPG has been unchanged for almost 40 years, with only 10 per cent of children with DIPG surviving for more than 2 years following their diagnosis; understands that symptoms of DIPG include difficulty in speaking and walking, weakness of facial muscles, problems with eye movement, headaches, and nausea; welcomes the fantastic effort of Fiona Govan, whose e-petition to this parliament to generate more publicity for DIPG and to achieve further funding for a disease that presently has no cure has gained over 100,000 signatures; commends the valuable research and efforts of organisations such as the Brain Tumour Charity that is currently leading new drugs research to target, prevent, and treat DIPG; and urges the Government to increase funding dedicated to research into DIPG and to expand recognition and treatment of this distressing disease.

847 Local government reorganisation

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Tim Farron
Jim Shannon

That this House notes that as part of the Devolution and Recovery white paper and in the midst of the biggest crisis since the second world war, this Government wants to plunge councils into the wasteful distraction of top down reorganisations at exactly the time when local authorities should be concentrating all of their efforts on covid recovery; expresses concerns that the impact of redirecting council expenditure away from supporting the most vulnerable people, on local economic recovery and business support will increase poverty and inequalities as further jobs are lost, homeless people are once more put out on the streets and local economic recovery stalls; recognises the significant successes of local government, especially District Councils, in stepping in to manage the local response to covid when central government failed to do so; recognises that every referendum on unitarization has failed to show support; and calls on the Government to recognise that now is not the time to do other than support local councils to continue the work of recovery including moving homeless people into permanent homes, saving jobs and eradicating covid.

848 Recognition for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Robert Halfon
Jim Shannon

That this House regrets that the recent BBC documentary, *Once Upon a Time in Iraq*, barely mentioned the experience of the Kurds and the Kurdistan Region in Iraq, although it contains about a sixth of the population of the country and was one of the principal victims of the Baathist regime before 2003; agrees with Bashar Warda, the Chaldean archbishop of Erbil, that minority communities such as the Christians and the Yezedis feel voiceless and being airbrushed out of a major BBC documentary is wounding and damaging; notes that the BBC does not claim the documentary is a definitive history of the Iraq War or its people and believes, however, that such large omissions give a misleading impression of the dynamics of Iraqi politics and Kurdistan's vital role in helping stabilise Iraq's democratic process after 2003, as well as sheltering persecuted religious groups and over a million internally displaced people and refugees from Syria; further believes that Kurdistan perspectives and information on its democratic aspirations, religious pluralism, gender equality, and reforming Iraq could have better provided viewers with a more nuanced picture; and urges the BBC to commission a documentary on the experience of Kurdistan to give its viewers a more comprehensive picture of Iraq.

849 Contribution to the community of the Girvan Soup Group

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Allan Dorans
Jim Shannon

That this House acknowledges the outstanding work of the The Girvan Soup Group; originating as a simple idea of making a pot or two of soup for elderly neighbours at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, expanded to provided homemade soup, bread, homemade cakes and other sweet treats to vulnerable, isolating or shielding people, seven days a week free of charge; notes that to date they have provided over 10,000 portions of soup and provided essential social interaction and significantly reduced isolation within the community; highlights and celebrates the commitment and dedications of volunteers including cooks, delivery drivers and general volunteer helpers; acknowledges the contribution and assistance provided by the Milestone Church, Age Concern Girvan and the incredible support of the local community who have helped with fundraising and donations of over £2500; and notes the contribution of local businesses including Grants Distillery and Nestle for their generous support and the generosity of the Girvan Community Council without all of these, this outstanding community initiative would not have been possible.

850 Political situation in Belarus

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 6

John McDonnell
Jim Shannon
Claudia Webbe
Jonathan Edwards
Kate Osborne
Kenny MacAskill

That this House notes that the elections in Belarus on 9 August were neither free nor fair, that millions of Belarusians have defied the regime of Alexander Lukashenko, condemns the violence and repression against peaceful protesters, notes that the strikes and protests taking place across Belarus are an inspiration to workers and progressives across Europe and the world, welcomes the role of trade unions in the protests and extends our solidarity to them in the face of persecution

and strike-breaking by the regime, rejects the idea that democratisation need be a move towards neo-liberal economic reforms, and welcomes the demands raised by the trade union movement to declare the presidential elections void, dismiss President Lukashenko, freedom and compensation for all political prisoners, end all proceedings against opponents of the regime, removal of Police officials and judges responsible for violence and repression, end the draconian system of fixed-term contracts affecting 90 per cent of workers in Belarus; and calls for international solidarity with the people of Belarus in their struggle for freedom and democracy, and opposes the introduction of repressive forces from outside Belarus.

851 Honk for Hope campaign to protect jobs and business

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 9

Grahame Morris
Jim Shannon
Paula Barker
Claudia Webbe
Jonathan Edwards
Kate Osborne

John McDonnell

Ian Lavery

Mick Whitley

That this House recognises the Honk for Hope campaign to protect jobs and business in the coach industry; notes the sector's critical role as the backbone of the British Tourism Industry, connecting people to leisure, cultural and retail centres; expresses concern that many small, medium and family-run coach businesses are on the brink of closure due to covid-19; welcomes the grassroots Honk for Hope campaign organised by coach operators working to safeguard the 42,000 people employed within the industry that contributes over £6 billion to the economy; backs the call for sector-specific support for an industry hit first, hit hardest and will be the last to recover from covid-19; and praises the campaign for organising peaceful protests to highlight their concerns and is worried about heavy-handed tactics adopted to limit the exercise of their democratic right to demonstrate through the police use of Section 12 of the Public Order Act 1986.

852 Funding for Hammersmith Bridge

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 3

Sarah Olney
Jim Shannon
Andy Slaughter

This House acknowledges that Hammersmith Bridge has been closed to motor traffic since April 2019 and was suddenly closed to all pedestrians and cyclists on 13th August; expresses concern that many residents on both sides of the river have been cut off from their workplaces, schools and health services and notes that there is a critical lack of alternative routes; further recognises that as a result of the devastating impact that covid-19 has had on Transport for London and local authority budgets, neither Hammersmith and Fulham Council nor TfL have sufficient resources to repair the bridge; and therefore calls on the Department for Transport to urgently provide the funds for the repairs.

853 Covid-19 inspired literature

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 2

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon

That this House congratulates Bonnyrigg library assistant Ryan Sturrock on self-publishing his debut novel entitled *Death's Whisper*; understands that *Death's Whisper* features eerie similarities to the current covid-19 pandemic due to being split between 1645 Edinburgh and a present-day plague; notes that Ryan began writing the book two years ago, before the coronavirus pandemic, and that the advent of covid-19 and living through a real-life pandemic has given him both the time and inspiration he needed to finish it; and recognises the importance of literature in revitalising the cultural sector to both enrich lives and assist economic recovery.

854 World Suicide Prevention Day

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 21

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Margaret Ferrier
Jonathan Edwards
Richard Thomson
Kirsty BlackmanIan Blackford
Carol Monaghan
Mhairi Black
Gavin Newlands
Martin Docherty-HughesAlyn Smith
Peter Grant
John McNally
Stuart C McDonald
Neil GrayDeidre Brock
Patricia Gibson
Kenny MacAskill
Hannah Bardell
Drew Hendry

That this House marks Thursday the 10th of September 2020 as World Suicide Prevention Day; notes with worry that suicide rates in the UK are increasing; further notes with extreme concern that suicide is the leading cause of death in young people in the UK, with young men and LGBT+ people being particularly affected; recognises that we all have a part to play in tackling the stigma that still exists around mental health by having open and honest conversations with our friends and family, by reminding others that they are not alone, and ultimately by looking out for each other; and commends all those who work in suicide prevention, including mental health services, third sector organisations, and individual citizens in communities.

855 Rebuilding of Fair Isle Bird Observatory

Tabled: 7/09/20 Signatories: 3

Mr Alistair Carmichael
Jim Shannon
Layla Moran

That this House recognises the crowdfunding rebuild appeal for the Fair Isle Bird Observatory; notes that the Fair Isle Bird Observatory was tragically destroyed by a fire in March 2019; honours the brave emergency services who tackled the blaze and the work of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust and wider community to organise the rebuild effort; recognises Fair Isle as a thriving island community, regarded as being one of the best places in Europe to see rare birds stopping off along their migration routes; notes that a £7.4 million revamped bird observatory has been granted planning permission and will be a world-class facility for ornithological and marine biological research; further notes the new building will have improved accommodation facilities for students and visitors which will be a significant boost to the tourist offer of the island; thanks those who

have already donated towards over £94,000 raised so far since the appeal launched; and calls on the UK Government to back up their indication to offer support, made by Prime Minister May in 2019, and on all parties to do all they can to support this important cause to ensure that a new Fair Isle Bird Observatory can be back up and running as soon as possible to help the future prosperity of Fair Isle.

858 Food from Fife success

Tabled: **7/09/20** Signatories: **2**

Wendy Chamberlain
Jim Shannon

That this House celebrates the nomination of three North East Fife members of Food From Fife in the Great British Food magazine's Reader Awards; notes that Ardross Farm Shop and Balgove Larder are finalists in the Best Farm Shop and Deli category; further notes that the Bowhouse market is a finalist in the Best Food Market category; thanks these businesses for their contribution to the local economy and their excellent produce; and wishes them the best in the final of the competition.

859 Fife Voluntary Action and Covid-19

Tabled: **7/09/20** Signatories: **2**

Wendy Chamberlain
Jim Shannon

That this House expresses its thanks for the work of Fife Voluntary Action throughout the covid-19 outbreak; recognises that during the covid-19 lockdown, Fife Voluntary Action operated multiple services in the community including Helping Hand, which co-ordinates community responses to covid by linking those in need of help with Fife Council services and neighbourhood volunteers, Prescription Delivery Service and Shopping Delivery Service; notes that these services provided a huge source of support to many people in Fife, including those shielding; further notes that over 5,000 prescriptions were delivered to shielding and vulnerable people during lockdown; and expresses its thanks to the team at Fife Voluntary Action and all the volunteers for helping the community during the pandemic.