



Published: Friday 18 September 2020

Early Day Motions tabled on Thursday 17 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

895 Extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

Tabled: 17/09/20 Signatories: 1

John Nicolson

That this House recognises the importance of retaining jobs in industries still affected by the ongoing covid-19 pandemic; further recognises that the cliff-edge October cut-off date of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is set to result in hundreds of thousands of avoidable redundancies; notes research from the Trussell Trust that the end of coronavirus job and income support is expected to spark a 61 per cent rise in food bank use this winter, plunging families across Scotland and the rest of the UK into poverty; and calls on the Government to act in line with other countries such as France, Ireland and Germany by extending the Job Retention Scheme into 2021.

896 Teaching of British Sign Language in schools

Tabled: 17/09/20 Signatories: 6

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

That this House recognises the importance of ensuring that all members of society are able to communicate effectively and clearly; notes that this includes ensuring that people who are deaf or hard of hearing are able to communicate effectively and clearly; recognises that 11 million people in the UK are deaf or hard of hearing, highlighting the need to teach British Sign Language more widely; calls on this Government to introduce British Sign Language classes beginning at Key Stage

1 through to Key Stage 3; and further calls on this Government to introduce a British Sign Language GCSE course.

897 Phoenix cup

Tabled: **17/09/20** Signatories: **1**

Wendy Chamberlain

That this House celebrates the 25th and 26th Phoenix Cup which are currently being held in Scotland; notes that the Phoenix Cup provides a fantastic platform for sport for people with disabilities; congratulates Scottish Disability Golf and Curling for planning this important event in the face of huge logistical challenges posed by the pandemic; and wishes the best of luck to participants.

898 Ban on goods produced by state-sponsored forced labour

Tabled: **17/09/20** Signatories: **14**

Siobhain McDonagh

Caroline Lucas

Paul Girvan

Andrew Gwynne

Mike Hill

Ian Blackford

Chris Bryant

Mohammad Yasin

Allan Dorans

Andy Slaughter

John McDonnell

Mr Virendra Sharma

Margaret Ferrier

Paul Bristow

That this House welcomes the United States Department of Home Security issuing five Withhold Release Orders which will ban the import of products from the People's Republic of China produced with state-sponsored forced labour in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region where the Chinese Communist Party government is engaged in systematic human rights abuses against the Uyghur people and other ethnic and religious minorities; notes that the latest orders cover computer parts made by Hefei Bitland Information Tehncology Co., cotton produced by Xinjiang Junggar Cotton and Linen Co., clothing from the Yili Zhuowan Garment Manufacturing Co., hair products made in the Lop County Hair Product Industrial Park in Xinjiang, and all products made with labour from the notorious Lop County No.4 Vocational Skills Education and Training Centre, the latter of which is little better than a slave labour concentration camp through which, and through a network of similar camps, genocide is now being perpetrated by the Chinese Communist Party against the Uyghur people; and urges the Government to review and upgrade its own import control arrangements to ensure that British consumers are protected from inadvertently supporting slave labour and genocide in China.

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.

860 Employment practices on redundancy and rehiring

Tabled: 8/09/20 Signatories: 36

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

Amy Callaghan

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: 32

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

Sammy Wilson

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 eligible 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.

863 Post-Covid-19 supportTabled: **8/09/20** Signatories: **29**

Carol Monaghan
Andrew Gwynne
Clive Lewis
Jim Shannon
Stewart Malcolm McDonald
Margaret Ferrier

Amy Callaghan

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: **62**

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

Amy Callaghan

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.

868 10th anniversary of the papal visit

Tabled: 9/09/20 Signatories: 12

Mike Kane [R]
 Mohammad Yasin
 Patrick Grady
 Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck
 Chris Stephens
 John McDonnell

Margaret Ferrier

That this House warmly recalls the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK between 16 and 19 September 2010; notes his address to parliamentarians in Westminster Hall where he reminded us that religion is not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation; recognises the important contribution of Catholic parishes, charities and schools to our communities; and sends its best wishes to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pope Francis and the Catholic community across the entire UK on this important anniversary.

878 Auchengeich Mining Disaster

Tabled: 11/09/20 Signatories: 27

Steven Bonnar
 Dr Philippa Whitford
 Stuart C McDonald
 Dave Doogan
 Allan Dorans
 Kenny MacAskill

Colum Eastwood

Paul Girvan

That this House acknowledges that Friday 18 September 2020 is the 61st anniversary of the Auchengeich Mining disaster; respectfully remembers the 47 men who lost their lives after a fault with equipment caused a fire in the mine; further remembers that 41 women were widowed by this tragedy, and 67 children lost their father; expresses gratitude to the Auchengeich Memorial Committee for their commitment in continuing to commemorate the disaster by arranging a memorial service every year at the Auchengeich Memorial statue in Moodiesburn; notes with regret that the memorial service due to take place on Sunday 13 September 2020 has had to be cancelled but that a prayer and a blessing will be conducted after a wreath is laid by the Memorial Committee; and conveys its sympathies to the family and loved ones of the miners.

880 Suspension of income requirements for family visas

Tabled: 14/09/20 Signatories: 34

Stuart C McDonald
 Jim Shannon
 Jonathan Edwards
 Deidre Brock
 Margaret Ferrier
 Richard Thomson

Bell Ribeiro-Addy
 Allan Dorans

Layla Moran
 Stewart Malcolm McDonald

Christine Jardine
 Amy Callaghan

Paul Girvan
Roberts

Kate Osborne
Chris Law

Liz Saville

That this House notes that there are thousands of couples and families who are currently separated, or at imminent risk of becoming separated, due to restrictive income requirements for British nationals and settled residents wishing to be joined in the UK by a partner from outside the EEA; welcomes the Minister for Immigration's commitment of 23 March 2020 that no one will have a negative outcome through the immigration system due to a circumstance that was beyond their control; further notes that family separation would clearly constitute such a negative outcome; further welcomes that Minister's statement of 1 September 2020 that the circumstances brought about by the coronavirus pandemic are exceptional; notes with concern, however, that income requirements continue to be imposed on the sponsors of people applying to enter or remain in the UK with their British families despite those assurances; notes that guidance for caseworkers makes no mention of flexibility in the application of income requirements; is deeply troubled by the potential impact on those who must meet those income requirements of mass job losses caused by the coronavirus pandemic; and calls on the Government therefore to immediately suspend income requirements.

882 BBC Scotland and daily covid-19 briefings

Tabled: 14/09/20 Signatories: 10

Patricia Gibson
Jim Shannon
John Nicolson
Stewart Hosie
Chris Stephens
Alyn Smith

Stewart Malcolm McDonald

Margaret Ferrier

Chris Law

That this House condemns the decision of BBC Scotland to stop broadcasting the Scottish Government's briefings on the covid-19 pandemic in Scotland; notes the consistent public interest in these briefings throughout this health crisis; is bewildered by the timing of this decision given that this is now a critical point when the public needs to be kept fully and speedily informed of any changes in public health advice as covid-19 cases begin to rise again; questions the BBC's status as a public service broadcaster in the light of this decision given that these televised covid-19 updates are particularly valuable to older people, those with hearing difficulties and those who are not always able to access online information; is not aware that medical experts were consulted on the efficacy of this decision and the implications it potentially poses for public health; is concerned that this decision was made following pressure from both the Conservative and Labour parties; and is aware that many have questioned the political neutrality of this BBC decision given that the new BBC director general is a former Conservative party councillor.

883 19th anniversary of the arrest and disappearance of Aster Fissehatsion

Tabled: 14/09/20 Signatories: 5

Carol Monaghan
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens
Tommy Sheppard
Chris Law

That this House notes that 18 September 2020 marks the 19th anniversary of the arrest and disappearance of Aster Fissehatsion and 10 other political leaders following their demands that Eritrea's constitution be implemented and that elections be held; condemns the ending of media

freedom a few days later with the closure of all non-Government newspapers and the arrest and disappearance of Dawit Isaak, Seyoum Tsehaye and nine other journalists; urges the UK Government and international institutions to press the Government of Eritrea to release those prisoners who are still alive and to advise the families of those who are deceased; and calls for recognition of the thousands of other Eritreans who have been arrested and disappeared during the past 19 years.

884 Centrica

Tabled: **14/09/20** Signatories: **32**

John Cryer
Chris Stephens
Dawn Butler
Neil Coyle
John McDonnell
Judith Cummins

Amy Callaghan

Deidre Brock

That this House recognises the constructive approach taken by GMB Union and Unison in negotiations around their members' pay and conditions with British Gas and its parent company Centrica; condemns the tactics employed by that company in commencing those negotiations with threats to dismiss and re-engage its UK workforce on lesser terms; commends British Gas workers who while furloughed during the covid-19 outbreak voluntarily delivered thousands of food parcels with the Trussell Trust; and calls on the company to do the right thing, withdraw the Section 188 notice of potential redundancies and negotiate in good faith with workers' unions.

885 Opening of the Parkhead Pantry

Tabled: **14/09/20** Signatories: **6**

David Linden
Kirsten Oswald
Jim Shannon
Jonathan Edwards
Chris Stephens
Chris Law

That this House congratulates Parkhead Pantry on its opening; expresses best wishes to that volunteer-run co-operative local Pantry which provides low-cost food items to its members; and notes that the opening of the Parkhead Pantry means the regeneration of the previously derelict Parkhead public school drill hall.

886 Heartstone project in Glasgow North

Tabled: 14/09/20 Signatories: 10

Patrick Grady
 Drew Hendry
 Kirsten Oswald
 Jim Shannon
 Jonathan Edwards
 John Nicolson

Amy Callaghan

Chris Law

That this House welcomes the efforts of Heartstone a non-profit project helping to educate young people on issues of racism and xenophobia; notes that Heartstone has been working for over 35 years to challenge prejudice and intolerance most recently through its publishing of Heartstone Odyssey, a trilogy of children's fantasy books addressing issues of race and gender; recognises Heartstone's commitment to tackling bullying and hate crime, the results of which were presented in an event in the Palace of Westminster in 2016; welcomes Heartstone's latest project launching in Glasgow North this year; encourages local businesses and organisations to support Heartstone in reaching its fundraising target; and wishes Heartstone every success in growing the Heartstone project in the future.

890 Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Tabled: 15/09/20 Signatories: 13

Alexander Stafford
 Tim Farron
 Jim Shannon
 Ben Lake
 Jonathan Edwards
 Lloyd Russell-Moyle

Margaret Ferrier

Mr Virendra Sharma

Patrick Grady

That this House welcomes and applauds that nothing stops a Macmillan Coffee Morning, not even coronavirus; acknowledges that cancer hasn't stopped during the pandemic where one in two people will be diagnosed in their lifetimes; recognises that Macmillan Cancer Support is currently campaigning to restore cancer care and treatment to prevent cancer from becoming the forgotten C in the coronavirus pandemic; notes the charity believes it is facing its hardest year in its 109-year existence, as it juggles delivery of its critical support for people with cancer from its famous nurses to its vital free helpline, alongside a significant drop in income due to fundraising events being cancelled; congratulates Macmillan Cancer Support who will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary of World's Biggest Coffee morning on Friday 25 September; understands that it is more important than ever to support this much loved annual event and calls on all members to raise a mug on social media this September to demonstrate support for the three million people living with cancer across the UK and show that they will not be forgotten within this crisis.

892 Hunterston B nuclear power station

Tabled: 15/09/20 Signatories: 3

Patricia Gibson
 Jim Shannon
 Chris Law

That this House notes the announcement by EDF Energy that Hunterston B nuclear power station is set to begin decommissioning no later than January 2022, having been in operation since 1976;

understands the site currently employs around 520 staff as well as 250 contractors, and contributes an estimated £54 million a year to the North Ayrshire economy; realises the pressing need to expand renewable energy production in Scotland in order to transition to becoming carbon neutral as well as the need to attract inward investment to North Ayrshire; recognises that EDF Renewables is already one of the UK's leading renewable energy companies, specialising in wind power, solar and battery storage technology and hopes to see a continuation of the development of such technologies in North Ayrshire; is aware that the Hunterston site has huge potential with its highly skilled workforce who are well placed to deliver renewable energy production which would play an important role in helping Scotland meet its environmental responsibilities, while also delivering long-term sustainable economic growth for the local area; and calls on the Government to work alongside the Scottish Government and North Ayrshire Council to ensure that the site's potential is fully realised to continue to support jobs and investment in the local area in the future.

893 Air pollution and inequality

Tabled: 16/09/20 Signatories: 9

Apsana Begum
Claudia Webbe
Ms Diane Abbott
Ian Byrne
Jeremy Corbyn
John McDonnell

Mick Whitley

That this House expresses its concern at the recent findings of the Environment Agency's State of the Environment report; notes that air pollution is the single biggest environmental threat to people's health in the UK; further notes that many environmental factors, such as pollution and flooding, have been found to contribute to an increase in mental health conditions; is further concerned that access to nature is not equally distributed across our society and that exposure to pollution mirrors that difference; recognises that those living in more deprived areas experience the poorest quality of environment, as well as worse health, and that those facts are linked; asserts that in Tower Hamlets, according to campaigners, more than 40 per cent of the borough's population live with unacceptable air quality; further asserts that examples such as Tower Hamlets often reflect the higher levels of inequality experienced by BAME communities; and calls on the Government to implement clean air policies, accompanied by an equalities report, to ensure that air quality levels are equal across our society and to ensure that the right to clean air is not determined by income or ethnic background.