



Published: Thursday 10 December 2020

Early Day Motions tabled on Wednesday 9 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

1257 Treatment of workers at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Tabled: 9/12/20 Signatories: 2

Grahame Morris
Rachel Hopkins

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.

1258 Publication of Assuring Our Common Future report

Tabled: 9/12/20 Signatories: 1

Olivia Blake

That this House welcomes the 5th November 2020 publication of Assuring Our Common Future, A guide to parliamentary action in support of disarmament for security and sustainable development; supports the Disarmament Agenda of United Nations Secretary General António Guterres which this handbook helps to implement; highlights the matters addressed in the guide, including the importance of parliamentary action, disarmament in a post COVID-19 pandemic world, disarmament to save humanity, inhumane weapons including cluster munitions and landmines, the connections between disarmament, climate and sustainable development including climate protection, and disarmament for future generations; believes that these issues comprise some of the most

important policy issues before the United Kingdom Parliament; further believes that as part of the comprehensive defence and security review, the Government should set out a timetable or framework for entering the Trident nuclear weapons system into multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations and developing economic conversion options to protect jobs and the economy; and commends this report to all Members of both Houses of Parliament as an essential guide to sustainable security in an uncertain world.

1259 Human rights and democracy in Poland

Tabled: 9/12/20 Signatories: 1

Clive Lewis

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.

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.

1186 Paid helpline for gas and electricity suppliers

Tabled: 25/11/20 Signatories: 16

John Nicolson
Claudia Webbe
Jonathan Edwards
Paula Barker
Allan Dorans
John McDonnell

Ian Mearns

That this House draws attention to the issue of paid helplines for gas and electricity suppliers; highlights that the use of 03 numbers in this context can cost up to £0.35p a minute; condemns this excessive price, as it excludes customers on a low income or universal credit from being able to address their issues; and recommends that these essential helplines are free to use for all customers.

1189 £20 weekly increase to universal credit

Tabled: 25/11/20 Signatories: 25

Jon Trickett
Ian Lavery
Claudia Webbe
Alison Thewliss
Jonathan Edwards
Paula Barker

Clive Lewis

That this House acknowledges that the £20 a week uplift in Universal Credit has provided much-needed, vital support to millions of people during the covid-19 outbreak; expresses disappointment that there was no commitment to making this increase permanent in Spending Review 2020; notes with concern analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which found that ending the £20 increase in April 2021 will leave roughly 16 million people in families facing an overnight loss of £1,040 a year; further notes that the £20 uplift has not applied to legacy benefits during this crisis; and calls on the Government to make the £20 uplift in Universal Credit permanent and also applying this increase in payment to all legacy benefits.

1199 Agricultural payments in Wales

Tabled: 26/11/20 Signatories: 6

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

This House notes that the 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto stated that the Government would guarantee the current annual budget to farmers in every year of the next parliament; notes that the pro Leave campaign during the EU Referendum promised that Wales would not lose a penny as a result of leaving the EU; recognises that direct payments account for 80 per cent of Welsh farm income; expresses deep concern that the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review appears to show a shortfall of up to a third of Welsh farmers' current funding levels; calls on the Chancellor to urgently clarify the funding which will be available to Welsh farmers; and views the announcement as a Brexit betrayal of Welsh agriculture.

1206 No Recourse to Public Funds

Tabled: 30/11/20 Signatories: 33

John Cryer
Mr Alistair Carmichael
Caroline Lucas
Ms Harriet Harman
Kate Osamor
Ed Davey

Clive Lewis

That this House believes that the Government has a duty to ensure that everyone living in the UK is protected from both the health and financial impacts of Coronavirus; understands that long before the pandemic No Recourse to Public Funds restrictions have pushed migrants and their families into poverty and homelessness; recognises that migrants with NRPF have been forced to choose between

continuing to work throughout the pandemic or providing for their families; is deeply concerned that migrants who may lose their jobs as unemployment levels rise are at high risk of hardship and destitution; believes that preventing people from entering destitution should be a priority and is more effective than waiting until local authorities have a duty to intervene; believes NRPF restrictions are nothing more than a cost-shunt on to local authorities who are already struggling under the weight of funding cuts; recognises that although the policy allows for applications on a case-by-case basis to have the condition removed, it is incredibly difficult in practice, does not prevent abject poverty, and may unfairly lengthen the route to settlement by five years; further recognises that the hostile environment in all its forms increases racial discrimination; and calls on the Government to urgently suspend NRPF conditions.

1221 Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week

Tabled: 1/12/20 Signatories: 17

Daisy Cooper [R]
 Marion Fellows
 Carla Lockhart
 Jonathan Edwards
 Sir Peter Bottomley
 Jim Shannon

Tim Farron

That this House welcomes Crohn's & Colitis Awareness Week; notes the profound impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on diagnosis, access to specialist advice, investigations and surgery for people with Crohn's and Colitis; appreciates the care provided by healthcare professionals in Inflammatory Bowel Disease services during the pandemic; recognises the role of Crohn's & Colitis UK in providing essential information and support to the 500,000 or the 1 in 133 individuals and their families who are living with the conditions across the UK; welcomes the 2019 IBD Standards; and urges the Government to adequately fund IBD services and prioritise access to endoscopy and surgery for people with Crohn's and Colitis, appropriately alongside other conditions, given the significant implications of delaying critical interventions and procedures on both physical and mental health, relationships and finances.

1225 Scientists, researchers and clinicians developing treatment, testing and vaccines for covid-19

Tabled: 2/12/20 Signatories: 40

Olivia Blake
 Mick Whitley
 Bell Ribeiro-Addy
 Apsana Begum
 Rachel Hopkins
 Ian Byrne

Ian Mearns

That this House celebrates and commends the international efforts of thousands of scientists, researchers and clinicians from across the globe in developing treatment, testing and vaccines for covid-19.

1230 World superbike champion Jonathan Rea MBE

Tabled: 2/12/20 Signatories: 7

Carla Lockhart
Paul Girvan
Jim Shannon
Stephen Farry
Ian Paisley
Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson

Gavin Robinson

That this House congratulates the record breaking World Superbike Champion Jonathan Rea MBE on winning his sixth consecutive World Superbike title; recognises his remarkable achievement as the most successful rider in the history of the championship; expresses shock and dismay at Jonathan Rea MBE being excluded from the BBC Sports Personality of the Year shortlist for 2020; and calls on the BBC to reconsider this unjustified exclusion, to afford the public the opportunity to vote in recognition of his success this year, and his status as the greatest Superbike rider of all time.

1234 Priority groups for covid-19 vaccinations

Tabled: 3/12/20 Signatories: 11

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

Jim Shannon

Ian Mearns

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.

1236 The APPG for Inclusive Entrepreneurship's recognition awards

Tabled: 3/12/20 Signatories: 10

Dr Lisa Cameron
Dave Doogan
Margaret Ferrier
Ben Lake
Hywel Williams
Liz Saville Roberts

Jim Shannon

Allan Dorans

That this house celebrates the outstanding achievements of all those individuals and organizations who received special commendations during the APPG for Inclusive Entrepreneurship's Recognition Award's Ceremony that was held on the 17 November 2020 as part of Global Entrepreneurship

Week particularly: Laura Draper and her ethical clothing company Gooseberry Pink, Sara McKee for her contribution to the Arts, James Holt for his contribution to music, Monzur Miah for his entrepreneurship in setting up Monty's Flowers, Helene Martin-Gee for her work towards equality for women in enterprise, Jane Cordell for championing disability rights, Grant Logan for his work around digital innovation and education, Yemi Jackson for her work on equitable recruitment, Steve Hopwood for his contribution to transportation and motorsport and Lady Sharon Farley Mason for her work in redefining and glamorising mobility aids; recognises the broader contribution of disabled entrepreneurs to the UK economy; and notes, with regret, that many people have immense entrepreneurial talent and potential largely left untapped by Government initiative, calling on Government to support inclusive entrepreneurship in rebuilding the economy.

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

Tabled: 3/12/20 Signatories: 19

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

Jim Shannon

Ian Mearns

Clive Lewis

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: 20

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

Jim Shannon

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.

1240 Contribution of Melanie Tonks to the communities of Arrochar, Tarbet and Succoth

Tabled: 3/12/20 Signatories: 5

Brendan O'Hara
Allan Dorans
Chris Law
Chris Stephens
Jim Shannon

That this House acknowledges the outstanding contribution made to the communities of Arrochar, Tarbet and Succoth by Melanie Tonks since she and her late husband Billy moved to Argyll & Bute in 1999 and remembers their generosity in regularly providing a holiday chalet for people with learning difficulties free of charge; recognises Melanie's long standing involvement in the Arrochar & Tarbet Community Development Trust and her important contribution in helping organise the annual 3 Villages GalaFest; pays tribute to the excellent service she has provided to local people since becoming Postmistress of the Arrochar Post Office in 2016, while simultaneously voluntarily running the 3 Villages Pit Stop Community Café from the same premises; notes she has also provided a shopping service for those in the community unable to do this themselves, as well as delivered daily care to an elderly person in the locality; sincerely thanks her for work in preparing food for distribution to those local people most in need during the current covid-19 pandemic; and thanks her for her outstanding commitment to this rural community and wishes her all the very best on her retirement.

1241 Nadine Marshall and revised probation instructions

Tabled: 3/12/20 Signatories: 7

Liz Saville Roberts
Sir Peter Bottomley
Jonathan Edwards
Ben Lake
Hywel Williams
Chris Stephens

Jim Shannon

That this House congratulates Nadine Marshall for securing vital revisions to the probation instructions on Serious Further Offending; recognises that these changes mean that families of victims will now be entitled to timely and transparent information when an offender subject to supervision goes on to kill; remembers Nadine's son, Conner, who was murdered in March 2015 when he was only 18 years old by an offender subject to probation supervision in the community; and calls on the Government to address staff shortages in the probation system in order to help prevent repeats of cases like Conner's in the future.

1242 Royal Scottish National Orchestra tribute to the people of Belarus

Tabled: 3/12/20 Signatories: 7

Alison Thewliss
Allan Dorans
Steven Bonnar
Chris Law
Chris Stephens
Jim Shannon

Wendy Chamberlain

That this House acknowledges the work of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra who have demonstrated solidarity with their friends in Belarus through the commissioning and performance of Three Belarusian Folk Songs; recognises that the work is a tribute to the peaceful protests of the Belarusian people seeking to uphold their nation's democracy and thanks the RSNO for highlighting this important issue and offering support; warmly congratulates Christopher Gough for composing the piece; thanks soloist Aleksei Kiseliov and all of the musicians, as well as the RSNO's technical team, for bringing the work to a worldwide audience despite the challenges posed by covid-19; and commends the RSNO for continuing to bring music into people's lives through delivery of their Digital Season, ensuring that the restrictions that people living with do not limit the enjoyment of the arts which has been, and will continue to be, so vital during this difficult year.

1243 Pink Saltire Rainbow Responders survey

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 2

Neale Hanvey
Allan Dorans

That this House recognises Scottish LGBT+ charity Pink Saltire in its tireless work supporting communities and local LGBT+ organisations to provide hundreds of individuals and families essentials such as fresh fruit and vegetables, food vouchers, mobile phone credit top ups, care packages, bikes and laptops since March this year; welcomes the publication of the findings of the Rainbow Responders survey which details the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown on LGBT+ people in Scotland; and notes the recommendations of Pink Saltire which include urgent investment in services to support the mental health and wellbeing of LGBT+ people, run by LGBT+ people, practical aid and capacity building for projects working with LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees, clearer, coordinated messaging on what services are available to LGBT+ people in Scotland, local and regional action plans feeding into a national consortium of agencies spearheading the ongoing Covid-19 response, with funding and resources to tackle the challenges identified, work to improve the physical assets and resources of communities around the country, including spaces to organise relief efforts and mobile community hubs, and improved engagement with ethnic minorities, disabled people and those in island and rural communities to ensure their specific needs are being addressed.

1244 Fife Councillors Rosemary Liewald and Lea McLelland

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 3

Neale Hanvey
Jim Shannon
Allan Dorans

That this House congratulates Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty Councillor, Rosemary Liewald, on being recognised and shortlisted as a Covid-19 Hero at the 2020 LGiU Scotland Councillor Awards; notes that Councillor Liewald was highlighted as having made a tangible difference in her

local community as well as the wider Fife area in her role as Chair of Fife Health and Social Care Partnership Board by going above and beyond to ensure that no one is left behind during the Covid-19 crisis; and congratulates Councillor Liewald and fellow Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty Councillor Lea McLelland on raising more than £1,000 for Benarty Foodbank by taking part in Live Below the Line's challenge to spend just £1 a day on food to raise awareness of people living in poverty around us.

1245 **Generations Working Together manifesto**

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 3

Neale Hanvey
Jim Shannon
Allan Dorans

That this House welcomes the publication of Scottish charity Generations Working Together's first intergenerational manifesto which calls for Scotland to become an intergenerational nation; and notes that the charity, which fights ageism and campaigns for stronger connections between younger and older generations, identifies three key areas of focus to help ensure that relationships between generations are strengthened and Scotland becomes more connective and inclusive – to embed intergenerational approaches in governance and policy making to give a voice to all in the political process, create more intergenerational places and spaces including intergenerational living to enhance Scotland's housing provision and the development of civic and public spaces that can be used by all generations and bring together people from different generations, and increase knowledge and understanding of intergenerational approaches to combat ageism.

1247 **Arcadia employee pensions**

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 7

Hywel Williams
Ben Lake
Liz Saville Roberts
Jonathan Edwards
Paula Barker
Dawn Butler

Jim Shannon

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; notes the £385 million pound agreement between the Pensions Regulator, Arcadia and the group's owner to support employees pensions which was concluded in 2019; asserts that that agreement 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.

1248 Hermitage primary school, UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School award

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 2

Brendan O'Hara
Allan Dorans

That this House congratulates the pupils and staff of Hermitage primary school in Helensburgh on receiving the prestigious Gold Rights Respecting School award from UNICEF; notes that the Gold award is the highest accolade that UNICEF can bestow on a school and that it recognises Hermitage primary's deep and thorough commitment to children's rights at all levels of school life; recognises the excellent work of Headteacher Mrs Elspeth Davis, all of her staff, particularly Mrs Louise Grafton the school's rights respecting lead and pupils from P1 to P7 whose hard work and dedication has made Hermitage primary the first school in Argyll and Bute to be given the UNICEF Gold award; acknowledges that the school has embedded the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into its ethos and curriculum; thanks them for the outstanding work that they are doing; and wishes everyone at Hermitage primary every success in the future.

1249 Levels of statutory sick pay

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 18

Richard Burgon
Beth Winter
Tahir Ali
Mick Whitley
Mary Kelly Foy
Apsana BegumJim Shannon
Colum Eastwood
Rachel HopkinsIan Mearns
Olivia BlakeClive Lewis
Dan Carden

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.

1250 Bus worker safety during the covid-19 outbreak

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 20

Grahame Morris
 Ian Mearns
 Paula Barker
 Apsana Begum
 Ian Lavery
 Rebecca Long Bailey

Jim Shannon

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; is aware that tragically, a number of bus workers have died from Covid-19; notes that Government 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.

1251 Food insecurity

Tabled: 7/12/20 Signatories: 45

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

Wera Hobhouse
 Rebecca Long Bailey
 Clive Efford
 Sir Mark Hendrick

Jim Shannon
 Debbie Abrahams
 Rosie Cooper
 Kim Johnson

Sir George Howarth
 Ms Angela Eagle
 Ben Lake
 Clive Lewis

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: 23

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

Kate Osamor
 Ian Lavery

Ian Mearns

Jim Shannon

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.

1253 KO-NEKT Ardrossan award for most innovative community wealth-builder 2020

Tabled: 8/12/20 Signatories: 4

Patricia Gibson
 Allan Dorans
 Chris Law
 Margaret Ferrier

That this House congratulates Marianne Greenway of Ayrshire Children's Services CIC on her innovative new venture, KO-NEKT, based in Ardrossan, on securing the award for Most Innovative Community Wealth Builder 2020 – Scotland in the Global Business Awards 2020; recognises the work of Ayrshire's Ms Greenway who has dedicated thirty years of her life serving the children and young people of Ayrshire; applauds her new innovative venture, KO-NEKT, which, supports children with disabilities and autism; congratulates Marianne and her team upon these skill centres which are designed to be a haven of refuge and safety for children living with additional support needs, bringing people together and empowering them; understands that KO-NEKT, which was launched in 2017, offers support to families in Ayrshire, aiming to be a recognisable establishment for all children who are anxious about change, isolated from their peers or simply find it difficult to fit into traditional activities within their communities, offering day and evening support which can be accessed when required, flexibly; champions this all-inclusive service which works alongside each child to deliver support tailored to them, helping them achieve the highest degree of independence achievable and become confident in themselves; supports this fantastic work undertaken by Marianne and her team; and welcomes the forthcoming expansion of the service, with a second specialist childcare centre due to open in South Ayrshire in 2021, as this franchise expects to expand across the West of Scotland in the coming years and wishes this inspirational team every success for the future

1254 50th Anniversary of Habintag

Tabled: 8/12/20 Signatories: 4

Jim Shannon
Paul Girvan
Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson
Gavin Robinson

That this House notes the 50th anniversary of social housing provider Habintag; congratulates the Association on reaching this milestone of so many years providing and promoting accessible homes and neighbourhoods; and extends best wishes for their continued success.

1255 Kidnapping of girls and young women in Pakistan

Tabled: 8/12/20 Signatories: 5

Jim Shannon
Paul Girvan
Mr Gregory Campbell
Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson
Gavin Robinson

That this House notes that according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, there are around 1,000 young women from religious minority groups who are kidnapped, forcibly and converted and married to much older men; further notes the recent cases including Maira Shahbaz, Sanaha Iqbal and Arzoo Raja, all three who were Christian girls all under the age of 15; expresses grave concern at the similar attacks and forced marriages of young Hindu girls; and calls on Government to strongly condemn the perpetration of these acts and further to make contact with the Pakistan Government asking for steps to be taken to prevent these horrific actions from continuing without penalty.

1256 Glasgow Geoenergy Observatory

Tabled: 8/12/20 Signatories: 3

Margaret Ferrier
Jim Shannon
Allan Dorans

That this House notes the beginning of the operation of the Geoenergy Observatory in Glasgow and Rutherglen, which comprises of 12 boreholes fitted with 319 state-of-the-art sensors; acknowledges that this sort of subsurface observatory is a first in the UK; recognises the value of the data collected in this Observatory in advancing understanding of geothermal energy; notes that in central Scotland, northern England and southern Wales there are many abandoned mines flooded with water; acknowledges the importance of the Observatory's work to how their water could be utilised to supply homes and industry with heat, and that this geothermal energy source could be a vital contribution to ensuring the UK reaches carbon neutrality; and congratulates the scientists at the Observatory and all UKGEOS, Natural Environment Research Council and British Geological Survey staff on this significant achievement.