
Published: Wednesday 17 April 2024

Early Day Motions tabled on Tuesday 16 April 2024

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

620 Re-opening of the Conwy Valley Line

Tabled: **16/04/24** Signatories: **1**

Liz Saville Roberts

That this House congratulates Network Rail for the swift re-opening of the Conwy Valley Line on 13 April 2024; notes that the line was closed in the afternoon of 9 April 2024 when river flooding washed away ballast that supports the track near Dolgarrog station; further notes the hard work of the Network Rail team to install over 200 tonnes of new ballast which resulted in the resumption of services between Llandudno Junction and Blaenau Ffestiniog; also notes that the latest incident was 0.5 miles from previous resilience work carried out in 2020 and that these works held firm and had they not taken place this latest flooding incident would likely have closed the line for a period of up to four months; and congratulates the team at Network Rail for the vital work they do in operating and maintaining railways for public use in north Wales.

621 Clwb Rygbi Llanymddyfri, Welsh Premiership Cup Winners

Tabled: **16/04/24** Signatories: **1**

Jonathan Edwards

That this House congratulates Llandovery Rugby Club on winning the Welsh Premiership Cup at the National Stadium in Cardiff; pays tribute to both Llandovery and Merthyr Rugby Clubs for a well contested final and a fantastic game of rugby resulting in a 20-18 victory for the Drovers; applauds the dedication of the playing and coaching staff in delivering yet another successful season for the rugby club; thanks the Committee of the Club for their direction and recognises the faithfulness of the Club's supporters to Llandovery and the wonderful game of rugby union; and wishes the Club well for the remainder of the season.

622 Craigavon Baptist Church - 50th AnniversaryTabled: **16/04/24** Signatories: **1****Carla Lockhart**

That this House joins with the congregation of Craigavon Baptist Church, in celebrating 50 years of Christian witness in Craigavon and the surrounding area; recognises the positive impact of the Church in the community; and wishes the congregation well as they embark upon the next 50 years of their evangelism and service in the Craigavon area.

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.

526 Countdown to the reopening of the Levenmouth Rail LinkTabled: **19/03/24** Signatories: **10****Peter Grant****Jim Shannon****Martin Docherty-Hughes****Chris Law****Steven Bonnar****George Galloway**

Richard Thomson

That this House welcomes the installation of countdown clocks at Edinburgh Waverley, Cameron Bridge and Leven railway stations to mark the final 100 days until the reopening of the Levenmouth rail link; eagerly anticipates the arrival on 2 June 2024 of the first passenger trains in Leven for 55 years; notes that providing low carbon transport options will make Levenmouth even more attractive for inward investment and will support growth in tourism and other industries, bringing both social and economic benefits to the whole of Levenmouth; commends the Scottish Government, Fife Council and Network Rail for their work in delivering the new rail link; commends in particular the volunteers from Levenmouth Rail Campaign who over more than two decades have worked to build support from the Levenmouth community and from Councillors, MSPs and MPs of all parties; and looks forward to long-awaited opportunities for creating employment, greater access to education, and improved connectivity for the area's people and businesses.

527 Auchmuty High School, Digital Schools AwardTabled: **19/03/24** Signatories: **9****Peter Grant****Jim Shannon****Chris Law****Steven Bonnar****George Galloway****Allan Dorans**

Richard Thomson

That this House congratulates Auchmuty High School in Glenrothes on recently earning their Digital Schools Award from Education Scotland in recognition of the school's excellence in integrating digital technology into learning and teaching; notes that the Digital Schools Award is a national

awards scheme to promote, recognise and encourage a whole school approach to the use of digital technology in schools; highlights that the Digital Schools Award recognises best practice and builds on the progress already made, by providing a pathway and resources for schools seeking to do more with digital technology; further highlights that the programme also recognises those who achieve excellence and supports the efforts of schools, teachers and learners in making the best use of digital technology in the classroom; and thanks the partnership between Education Scotland, Hewlett Packard, Skills Development Scotland and AMD Processors for supporting this important initiative.

528 Fife Young Carers 25th anniversary

Tabled: **19/03/24** Signatories: **10**

Peter Grant
Jim Shannon
Chris Law
Steven Bonnar
Dr Philippa Whitford
George Galloway

Richard Thomson

That this House congratulates Fife Young Carers on the 25th anniversary of the organisation; commends the work of the 30 staff and numerous volunteers in supporting Fife's young carers in their caring roles and importantly in providing service users with a range of advice, support and opportunities in order to empower these amazing young people to reach their goals; highlights that more than 1000 young carers are supported in a variety of ways by Fife Young Carers whether through respite, one to one support, peer support, education support, advocacy and so much more; thanks all of the staff and volunteers for all the work that they do in supporting Fife's Young Carers at this exceptional milestone; and wishes both the staff and service users all the best for the next 25 years of Fife Young Carers, and beyond.

529 St Pauls RC Primary School Glee Choir heat winners

Tabled: **19/03/24** Signatories: **10**

Peter Grant
Jim Shannon
Chris Law
Steven Bonnar
Dr Philippa Whitford
George Galloway

Richard Thomson

That this House congratulates St Pauls RC Primary School Glee Choir on their fantastic win of their recent heat at the Scottish Primary School Glee Challenge 2024 held in the Alhambra Theatre in Dunfermline over two nights in March; highlights that St Pauls, of Glenrothes, rocked their way to the top spot to go forward to the Fife Regional Final; notes the importance of the event in highlighting the incredible talent of so many pupils in Scotland's schools, raising confidence and offering opportunities to shine; commends the Challenge, under the auspices of the Frisson Foundation, on being the largest most inclusive singing, dance, performance and choir initiative engaging with thousands of Scotland's primary school children; gives thanks to all of the teachers, school staff and especially the children of each and every school for taking part and making the

event so exceptional; and wishes St Pauls Glee Choir all the very best for the rest of the Glee Challenge.

530 Treatment of Tibetan protesters in Dege County, Tibet

Tabled: 19/03/24 Signatories: 18

Chris Law
Jim Shannon
Jonathan Edwards
Martin Docherty-Hughes
Stewart Malcolm McDonald
Caroline Lucas

Richard Thomson

That this House strongly condemns the recent brutal crackdown on peaceful Tibetan protesters in Dege County, Tibet; calls for an immediate and irreversible halt to the construction of Kamtok Hydroelectric Dam, as well as the forced relocation of more than 2,000 local Tibetans from their ancestral lands; acknowledges the courage of local Tibetans who have shared evidence, including videos, depicting desperate appeals, mass arbitrary detentions and the deployment of People's Armed Police, despite internet surveillance and the risk of detention and imprisonment for communication with Tibetans abroad, especially during protests; expresses deep concern over the police violence and ongoing restrictions on communication in Dege, as well as the looming threat of forced relocation and the destruction of six ancient monasteries with significant universal heritage value; recognises the lack of genuine and meaningful integration of Tibetans' profound knowledge and reverence for local sacred mountains in land-use planning and political decision-making; and therefore strongly urges the Government to call on the Chinese government to immediately and unconditionally release all individuals detained in connection with these events, provide medical treatment for all those injured until full recovery, immediately and irreversibly halt construction of all hydropower dams in Tibet without the consent of the local population and consideration of Tibetans' knowledge of social, cultural and ecological implications, and immediately end the security crackdown in Dege County.

531 Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Tabled: 19/03/24 Signatories: 21

Drew Hendry
Jim Shannon
Christine Jardine
Jonathan Edwards
Martin Docherty-Hughes
Chris Law

Richard Thomson

That this House recognises Neurodiversity Celebration Week and the significance of fostering inclusive work environments for neurodiverse individuals; acknowledges the barriers faced by neurodivergent individuals in accessing employment opportunities and obtaining assessments for conditions such as autism and ADHD; notes the need to support employers in creating inclusive workplaces by providing resources for neurodiversity training; recognises the value of partnerships between businesses and neurodiversity support groups to enhance support for neurodiverse employees; commends local organisations for their efforts in raising awareness and providing

support to neurodivergent individuals; and in doing so promotes understanding and inclusivity to ensure all individuals, regardless of neurodiversity, can thrive in the workplace.

534 **Opening of Ukrainian Community Group Centre in South Ayrshire**

Tabled: 20/03/24 Signatories: 12

Allan Dorans
Steven Bonnar
Dr Philippa Whitford
Dave Doogan
Alan Brown
Jonathan Edwards

Richard Thomson

That this House congratulates the Ukrainian Community Group South Ayrshire (UCG), a charity, on the opening of the Ukrainian Community Group Centre, in Ayr, which was officially opened by Mr Yevhen Mankovskyi, vice-consul at the Ukrainian Consulate in Edinburgh, on Friday 15 March 2024; notes the Centre will provide the more than 350 Ukrainian refugees resident in South Ayrshire fleeing from conflict with a safe place, where they can take part in numerous individual and collective activities including supporting families displaced by the devastating conflict in Ukraine, promoting language skills, social inclusion, new friendships, and facilitating mental health and wellbeing; further notes the outstanding contribution of the Management Committee and volunteers who have made this possible; recognises the benefits of such a Centre in providing support to maintain and reconnect with Ukrainian cultural ties and identities whilst integrating with the local community; further recognises and thanks local businesses, volunteer fundraisers, the National Lottery Community Fund, South Ayrshire HSCP and The Scottish Government Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund locally allocated through VASA, for substantial funding for this project; notes the Ukraine Community Centre in Ayr stands as a symbol of hope, resilience, and unity, offering a sanctuary for Ukrainian refugees in South Ayrshire to come together, share their stories, and support each other through the challenges of displacement and the ongoing crisis in their homeland; and, finally, reconfirms that the people of South Ayrshire, Scotland and the United Kingdom stand in unity and solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

535 **University of Aberdeen course on the impact of female genital mutilation**

Tabled: 20/03/24 Signatories: 15

Kirsty Blackman
Jonathan Edwards
Dr Philippa Whitford
Claudia Webbe
Mary Kelly Foy
George Galloway

Christine Jardine

Richard Thomson

That this House commends the University of Aberdeen for its efforts in training the next generation on the impact of female genital mutilation (FGM); notes that since its free online course on this topic launched in 2022, over 1,000 learners have participated; and welcomes that it continues to expand the capacity of the course to ensure that anyone with an interest in women's health feels prepared to deal with FGM in a professional capacity.

537 St Andrew's Secondary School fundraisingTabled: **21/03/24** Signatories: **9**

David Linden
 Dr Philippa Whitford
 George Galloway
 Allan Dorans
 Anne McLaughlin
 Jim Shannon

Richard Thomson

That this House congratulates pupils at St Andrew's Secondary School for their tireless efforts in raising over £8000 for charities and causes across Glasgow East; recognises their selfless dedication in assisting St Andrews Hospice in their Ben Nevis Challenge, 6K fun run and participating in a Sleep Out for Shelter Scotland; applauds them for living by their school motto of Service not Self in volunteering for charities across the East End of Glasgow including The Wayside Club and local food banks; commends St Andrew's Secondary School for empowering their students to create positive social change in their local community; and wishes all pupils, teachers and staff at St Andrew's all the success in their future endeavours in promoting social justice.

538 One year anniversary of the kidnapping of Elizabeth TsurkovTabled: **21/03/24** Signatories: **24**

Tommy Sheppard
 Jonathan Edwards
 Layla Moran
 Dr Philippa Whitford
 Mr Alistair Carmichael
 Allan Dorans

Brendan O'Hara
 Amy Callaghan

Alex Sobel

Martyn Day

That this House notes that today marks the one year anniversary of the kidnapping of Elizabeth Tsurkov, a dual Russian-Israeli national, who is being held hostage in Iraq by the militant group Kata'ib Hezbollah; expresses dismay at her kidnapping and calls for her immediate release; extends solidarity to her family as they campaign for her safe release; further notes that the Iraqi Government has opened an investigation last year into the kidnapping and expresses hope that this will now move swiftly and without undue delay; notes that the Popular Mobilisation Force (PMF) consisting of Kata'ib Hezbollah and other militant groups is funded by the Iraqi government; expresses concern at the potential risk of UK Government funding to Iraq benefiting the PMF; urges the UK Government to ensure robust procedures are in place to ensure that funding is not rediverted to these groups; and further urges the UK Government to use all diplomatic pressure and tools at its disposal to secure the release of Ms Tsurkov.

542 50th anniversary of St Mary's Primary School, Maryhill

Tabled: 22/03/24 Signatories: 11

Patrick Grady
George Galloway
Allan Dorans
Anne McLaughlin
Jim Shannon
Chris Law

Richard Thomson

Ms Anum Qaisar

That this House congratulates everyone at St Mary's Primary School in Maryhill, Glasgow, on the school reaching the landmark of 50 years of educational and community service to families across Maryhill at its current location on Kilmun Street; understands that St Mary's Primary School first started delivering denominational education in 1851, and the current building was opened at the present site on 26 February 1974; applauds the efforts of the staff team, who support close to 300 pupils from a diverse range of backgrounds and speaking over 30 languages; commends St Mary's Primary School for its commitment to Catholic education; recognises the school's key partnership with pupils, their families and the local parishes, The Immaculate Conception Church, Maryhill, and St Gregory's Church, Wyndford; commends the school's efforts within the wider community to develop important partnerships, including the "Introduction to University" at the Maryhill Hub and parent support initiatives with the Maryhill Health Centre; acknowledges the quality of education provided by St Mary's Primary School staff, both past and present, over many years, including by the school's first headteacher on the current site, Brother Jerome, and its current headteacher, Madeline McGeachie; further recognises that a celebratory mass was held on 18 March 2024, led by His Grace Archbishop Nolan; thanks parents, staff and pupils alike over many years who have worked to achieve the school's vision to be "united in nurturing our St Mary's family towards growth and success", and wishes all the community further success for many years to come.

545 Twenty-one Years of the Maryhill Activity Directory

Tabled: 25/03/24 Signatories: 8

Patrick Grady
Dr Philippa Whitford
Chris Law
Alison Thewliss
Chris Stephens
Jim Shannon

Richard Thomson

That this House congratulates all those involved in the production of the Maryhill Activity Directory, following the launch of its tenth edition during its 21st anniversary year on Friday 22 March 2024 at a special event in the Mackintosh Halls on Shakespeare Street in the Maryhill area of Glasgow; recognises that the directory, which began as a short list of events and community organisations on a single sheet of paper in 2003, has grown to become a full-colour, 42-page A5 brochure with over 600 listings and contact details for a wide range of groups, churches, sports organisations, voluntary services, elected representatives and more across Maryhill and beyond; notes that in addition to the printed directory, a regularly updated website and app has also been produced in recent years; further notes in particular the important role of Deacon Jim Hamilton of Maryhill Parish Church in the development of the directory throughout its history; pays tribute to Jim and all the volunteers who have helped to make the directory a reality, and extends its thanks to all the organisations who provide the services and activities features in the directory, and wishes all those involved every success for many years to come.

546 Bella the BeithirTabled: **25/03/24** Signatories: **8**

Patrick Grady
 Dr Philippa Whitford
 Chris Law
 Alison Thewliss
 Chris Stephens
 Jim Shannon

Richard Thomson

That this House congratulates all those involved in the development and unveiling of Bella the Beithir, believed to be one of the biggest community artworks in Scotland, at the new Stockingfield Bridge on the Forth and Clyde Canal in Glasgow North on Friday 1 March 2024; notes that in Scottish folklore, the Beithir is a lightning serpent most often seen in summer evenings during storms, and that this sculpture, as imagined by artist Nichol Wheatley, has seven coloured mosaicked winds along her body and a world egg in her mouth symbolising hope; further notes that the new bridge reconnects the areas Maryhill, Ruchill and Gilshochill, and that Scottish Canals commissioned eight community artworks to form an art park, with making, connecting, building relationships and joy at its heart; notes that Bella's body was formed using excess earth from landscaping work, reducing the development's carbon footprint by reusing 1,000 tonnes of earth, and that decoration of the Beithir requires some 50,000 handmade tiles and 6,000 scales to cover her 120 metre body, with production led by Louise Nolan and Ruth Impey from Make It Glasgow and involving input from across the local community including schools, women's groups, youth clubs, individuals and families; notes that the project has been developed considering recent research evidencing the positive change engaging in arts and culture can lead to for communities and wider social benefits achieved as a result; and looks forward to the continuing decoration of Bella and development of her presence in the community.

547 Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI)Tabled: **25/03/24** Signatories: **11**

George Galloway
 Claudia Webbe
 Angus Brendan MacNeil
 Kenny MacAskill
 Chris Stephens
 Jim Shannon

Rachael Maskell

That this House commends the WASPI campaigners who have fought for many years against unilateral and discriminatory changes to the state pension age; welcomes the report of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman which found the Department for Work and Pensions was clearly guilty of maladministration over its treatment of WASPI women; condemns the protracted failure of the Government to commit to paying compensation; calls on the Government to apologise forthwith; believes £2,950 is not adequate compensation; and further calls on the Government to fully compensate the WASPI women for the losses and delay they have suffered.

548 British Youth CouncilTabled: **25/03/24** Signatories: **5**

George Galloway
Claudia Webbe
Chris Stephens
Jim Shannon
Rachael Maskell

That this House expresses its sadness following the announcement of the British Youth Council that it is to permanently close after more than 75 years championing the voices of young people and engaging them in our democratic process; and calls on the Government to step in to attempt to prevent this closure, and to redouble its efforts to engage young people in politics.

549 Final report of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman on women's state pension ageTabled: **25/03/24** Signatories: **22**

Patricia Gibson
Stephen Farry
Dr Philippa Whitford
Deidre Brock
Chris Law
Ben Lake

Rachael Maskell

That this House welcomes the findings of the UK Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) which vindicates women born in the 1950s who were severely impacted when their state pension age was raised with little or no notice; notes that the Ombudsman's conclusions that the Government needs to act swiftly to ensure a compensation scheme is established to remedy the failings by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP); further notes with concern that the Ombudsman's report highlights that the DWP has clearly indicated that it will refuse to comply; believes that this is completely unacceptable and agrees that DWP must do the right thing and be held accountable for its failure to do so; is mindful of the suffering of the woman affected by the changes to their state pension age, with retirement plans thrown into chaos, leaving many in dire financial straits, exacerbated during a cost of living crisis; appreciates that the generation of women affected have already been victims of pay discrimination; commends the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaigners who have conducted their campaign for pension justice with dignity despite provocation in the form of dismissal and intransigence from the Government over many years; urges the Government to accept the fact that the women affected need and deserve compensation which recognises their financial loss and distress; and rejects any attempts to erect barriers which will prevent prompt access to compensation so that all WASPI women can finally enjoy the retirement they have earned.

550 The Big Plastic CountTabled: **25/03/24** Signatories: **13**

Ben Lake
Dr Philippa Whitford
Chris Law
Alison Thewliss
Hywel Williams
Liz Saville Roberts

Christine Jardine

Rachael Maskell

That this House congratulates the thousands of schools, households, community groups and businesses that came together to mark the Big Plastic Count between 11 and 17 March; acknowledges that this annual citizen science investigation provides a unique snapshot of the scale of the UK's plastic crisis; notes that the study by Greenpeace UK and Everyday Plastic provides valuable data about our plastic footprint; highlights that almost a quarter of a million people took part in the Big Plastic Count in 2022, which revealed that a quarter of a million participants threw away 6.4 million pieces of packaging waste in one week, yet only 12% was likely recycled; and calls on the UK Government to ban plastic waste exports, set a moratorium on new incinerators, and implement a Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles.

554 No Falls Week 2024Tabled: **25/03/24** Signatories: **13**

Alison Thewliss
Dr Philippa Whitford
Chris Law
Ben Lake
Hywel Williams
Liz Saville Roberts

Christine Jardine

Rachael Maskell

That the House marks No Falls Week 2024, which takes place between 13 and 17 May 2024; acknowledges that this week is an opportunity to recognise the powerful grassroots campaign dedicated to promoting safe working at height, providing an opportunity for organisations in all sectors to focus on working at height safely; mourns the 40 people who lost their lives due to a fall from height in Scotland, England and Wales in 2022-23 according to Health and Safety Executive figures; recognises that falls from height were responsible for 30% of all workplace deaths and that every year thousands of non-fatal falls take place, estimated at as many as 100 every day; understands that the No Falls Foundation has produced a toolkit with resources and guidelines to assist organisations in planning and implementing activities to commemorate No Falls Week; and supports the calls encouraging employers not only to contribute to the broader narrative of safety in working at height, but also to demonstrate their dedication to the wellbeing of their employees.

563 90th anniversary of the Wiener Holocaust Library

Tabled: 25/03/24 Signatories: 10

Kirsten Oswald
Dr Philippa Whitford
Chris Law
Ben Lake
Hywel Williams
Liz Saville Roberts

Christine Jardine

That this House commends the brilliant work and resources of the Wiener Holocaust Library, located on Russell Square, London; notes the Library is one of the world's foremost and extensive archives on the Holocaust, Nazi era, and genocide; understands the Library was founded in 1934 by Dr Alfred Wiener, a prominent campaigner against Nazism in the 1920s and 30s, after he fled Nazi Germany for Amsterdam where he set up the Jewish Central Information Office (JCIO) at the request of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association to collect information about the Nazis and the treatment of Jews; recognises that the Library moved to the UK following the pogrom of 1938 and that the JCIO was increasingly referred to as Dr Wiener's Library during the war, leading to its eventual renaming; further notes the Library contains some of the earliest accounts produced by survivors of the Holocaust, that it holds the UK's digital copy of the International Tracing Service Archive, which it puts at the service of survivors, descendants of victims, and academics and that the Library serves to be a living memorial to the evils of the past, engaging with people of all backgrounds and ages in understanding the Holocaust; highlights that the Library marked its 90th anniversary in February 2024; further commends the Library's ongoing efforts opposing antisemitism and other forms of intolerance; and wishes everyone involved with the Wiener Holocaust Library all the very best as they continue their vital work.

567 Let Girls Play campaign

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 8

Tracey Crouch
Alison Thewliss
Mohammad Yasin
Kim Johnson
Jim Shannon
Christine Jardine

Rachael Maskell

Ms Anum Qaisar

That this House congratulates the Football Association (FA) and Barclays for hosting its third Biggest Ever Football Session on International Women's Day, as part of its Let Girls Play Campaign; notes a record breaking 475,000 girls from 5,000 schools across England took part; further notes that this year, the Biggest Ever Football Session saw more registrations than ever before, with 71% of the schools who signed up having never done so before; welcomes that 76% of schools who took part in the previous sessions stated the activity had influenced equal access in their school; acknowledges that The Let Girls Play campaign, which was launched in October 2021 to support The FA's strategic ambition to provide girls with equal access to football, encourages an active generation of children, highlighting the physical and mental benefits of sport in schools; and commends the work the FA and others do to continue their support for the ever-increasing demand for girls to play football.

568 Independence day of BangladeshTabled: **26/03/24** Signatories: **4**

George Galloway
 Jim Shannon
 Christine Jardine
 Chris Stephens

That this House sends its well wishes to those celebrating the independence day of Bangladesh on 26 March 2024 to commemorate the country's declaration of independence from Pakistan in the early hours of 26 March 1971; observes that this year marks the 53rd day of independence; notes that Rochdale has a sizeable community of Bangladeshi descent and that there are so many people who are making great contributions in all walks of life from business to politics, sports and education; further notes that Rochdale is linked with Sylhet in Bangladesh through a twinning friendship link; thanks those that have organised a flag raising ceremony outside Number One Riverside in Rochdale; and wishes all a very happy independence day and Ramadan Mubarak.

569 Access to State Pension for people with a terminal illnessTabled: **26/03/24** Signatories: **32**

Dave Doogan
 Jonathan Edwards
 Alison Thewliss
 Allan Dorans
 Ian Mearns
 Stuart C McDonald

Brendan O'Hara
 Chris Stephens

Rachael Maskell

Ms Anum Qaisar

That this House notes that people with terminal illnesses cannot currently access their State Pension until their retirement age; recognises that this is the case even for individuals who have made full National Insurance contributions; acknowledges that poverty rates are disproportionately high amongst the terminally ill; commends research by Loughborough University showing that granting State Pensions to this group would almost halve the rate of poverty within this cohort while costing only £144 million per year, just 0.1% of the annual State Pension bill; and calls on the Government to allow early access to State Pensions for people diagnosed with a terminal illness.

570 Female genital mutilation legislation in The GambiaTabled: **26/03/24** Signatories: **13**

Patricia Gibson
 Jonathan Edwards
 Alison Thewliss
 Allan Dorans
 Jeremy Corbyn
 Stephen Farry

Mary Kelly Foy

Rachael Maskell

Chris Stephens

That this House expresses its deep concern regarding the Gambian National Assembly's consideration of a Bill which would repeal that country's ban on female genital mutilation (FGM); offers its unqualified condemnation of the practice of FGM; considers FGM to be a violation of the human rights of girls and women, including the right to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to physical integrity, and the rights of the child; notes the World Health Organization evaluation of the

practice as one which has no health benefits and can lead to excessive bleeding, urinary problems, shock, psychological problems and even death; recognises that the United Nations Population Fund estimates that over four million girls are at risk of FGM each year; believes that no justification for the practice can be found from the religion of either Islam or Christianity; understands that FGM has been outlawed in The Gambia since 2015 with the imposition of fines and prison sentences of up to three years for individuals who engage in the practice, and life imprisonment in instances where the practice led to death; further understands that the bill has been referred to a parliamentary committee for further consideration before moving to a final vote of all members of the Gambian National Assembly; and urges lawmakers in The Gambia to retain the ban on FGM and uphold the human rights of Gambian women.

571 Food price inflation and the Easter festive period

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 8

Sarah Olney
Helen Morgan
Jonathan Edwards
John McDonnell
Jim Shannon
Christine Jardine

Rachael Maskell

Chris Stephens

That this House deeply regrets the continuing effects of food price inflation; is concerned about the negative impact this will have on households over the coming Easter festive period; notes that this impact will disproportionately fall on vulnerable families; further notes that one-in-four households are still struggling financially and that food prices are on average 30 per cent higher than at the start of this Parliament; and calls on the Government to tackle food price inflation by investing in British farming, by supporting farmers with their energy bills, by fixing the broken visa system so that food producers can recruit the staff they need, and by extending free school meals to all children in poverty.

573 Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 590)

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 5

Alison Thewliss
Stewart Malcolm McDonald
Allan Dorans
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson

That the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules, HC 590, a copy of which was laid before this House on 14 March 2024, be disapproved.

574 Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 556)

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 6

Alison Thewliss
 Stewart Malcolm McDonald
 Allan Dorans
 Dr Philippa Whitford
 Stuart C McDonald
 Richard Thomson

That the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules, HC 556, a copy of which was laid before this House on 19 February 2024, be disapproved.

575 Immigration changes for carers and Ukrainians

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 12

Dan Carden
 Jonathan Edwards
 Stewart Malcolm McDonald
 Alison Thewliss
 Kim Johnson
 John McDonnell

Stuart C McDonald
 Ms Anum Qaisar

Mary Kelly Foy
 Chris Stephens

Rachael Maskell

That this House is concerned that the latest Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules, HC 556, which will prevent overseas care workers from bringing their dependants to the UK and makes substantial changes to the Ukraine schemes, will have a negative impact on migrant families; notes in particular that the changes will likely force carers into acquiescing to exploitative conditions at work or plunge them into destitution; recognises the importance of family members to carers often carrying out low-paid but crucial work in the UK's social care sector; further notes with concern the lack of opportunity for the abrupt changes to the Ukraine schemes to have been scrutinised properly within the usual 21-day period before implementation; further recognises the stress and harm that the changes will cause by separating Ukrainian families, particularly where one or more family members are left behind in Ukraine; also notes the harm that will be caused by no longer permitting Ukrainian nationals to sponsor family members under the Homes for Ukraine scheme; and calls on the Home Office to properly tackle migrant worker exploitation and urgently reconsider its changes to the Ukraine schemes.

576 Drumahoe Primary School, British School Trampoline Elite Champions 2024

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 5

Colum Eastwood
 Jim Shannon
 Mr Gregory Campbell
 Mary Kelly Foy
 Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Benjamin, Oliver and Thomas Briggs for their outstanding achievement in becoming 2024 British School Trampoline Elite Champions at the BSGA Trampoline Finals, held on March 16 in Telford; praises their dedication to the sport, their skill, and high-quality training; applauds their success that brought pride to their school and community that showcases

the potential of young athletes; and commends their exceptional talent and encourages continued support for our youth in sports to cultivate the next generation of champions.

577 County Durham Community Clothing Bank and Food Pantry

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 5

Mary Kelly Foy
John McDonnell
Jim Shannon
Ian Mearns
Chris Stephens

That this House commends the County Durham Community Clothing Bank and Food Pantry for their work in supporting people in City of Durham; recognises that they provide clothing, including school uniforms, and food parcels for those experiencing financial difficulties; further commends the volunteers for providing children with an Easter egg during the Easter holidays; and pays tribute to Dawn Willson, Julie Shaw and the team of volunteers.

578 Waddington Street Centre

Tabled: 26/03/24 Signatories: 4

Mary Kelly Foy
Jim Shannon
Ian Mearns
Chris Stephens

That this House commends Waddington Street Centre in City of Durham, an independent mental health resource with over forty years of experience; notes that the centre offers a wide range of services, including support services, for the people of City of Durham; pays tribute to all members of the Durham Mental Wellbeing Alliance, which Waddington Street Centre is part of; and wishes the centre, and the alliance, the best for the future.

579 National Lottery funding for North Edinburgh Arts

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

Christine Jardine
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates North Edinburgh Arts on receiving a grant of £148,821 from the National Lottery; understands this will be used to further its Green Projects work; notes this will include a community garden, volunteering opportunities and development of a new community shed as part of the refurbishment of their premises; commends North Edinburgh Arts for its commitment to providing community green spaces and ways for residents to help improve their neighbourhood; and wishes North Edinburgh Arts success with the Green Projects initiative.

580 Provand's Lordship Reopening to the Public after Refurbishment Works

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 6

Alison Thewliss
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House welcomes the reopening of Provand's Lordship, the oldest intact building in the city of Glasgow; notes that the building is one of only four surviving medieval buildings in the city, built in 1471 as part of the St Nicholas Hospital estate by Andrew de Durisdeer, Bishop of Glasgow; recognises the importance of the £1.6m renovation and conservation works that have been undertaken at the site to ensure its continuity for generations to come; acknowledges the hard work of Glasgow Life and Historic Scotland employees and management in the refurbishment of the building; and wishes all involved the best in all future endeavours.

581 30th anniversary of the Well Multi-Cultural Resource Centre

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 6

Alison Thewliss
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates the Well Multi-Cultural Resource Centre in Govanhill, Glasgow, on the 30th anniversary of its opening; notes that the Well was established in March 1994 by the Church of Scotland in order to provide support to the BAME communities of South East Glasgow; recognises that since its establishment in 1994 the Well has provided support to thousands of the residents of South East Glasgow through advice consultations, ESOL classes, social groups, and toddler groups; acknowledges the importance of these activities in tackling social isolation and building strong community links for BAME Glaswegians; thanks the staff and volunteers of the Well for their hard work; and wishes them the best of luck in all future projects.

582 East Lothian Council Young Musician of the Year

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

Kenny MacAskill
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates the young musicians who picked up awards at the East Lothian Council Young Musician of the Year 2024 held at St Mary's Parish Church in Haddington; praises flautist Leila Maycock from Knox Academy on winning the competition, who will travel to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to represent East Lothian at the Scottish Young Musician of the Year final on 26 May 2024; commends Will Lucas-Evans from North Berwick High School on being named Most Promising Musician, Daniel Schmitt from North Berwick High School, and Hannah Swinney from Dunbar Grammar School, on being awarded runner up prizes for their performances; understands that ninety secondary school aged musicians performed in their local school competitions to qualify

for the final, which saw thirteen soloists performing on the night; and wishes everyone the very best of luck with their futures.

583 50th anniversary of Irish League title win by Coleraine FC

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 2

**Mr Gregory Campbell
Jim Shannon**

That this House notes that 16 April 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the occasion when Coleraine FC won the Irish League title; congratulates the club on its preparations for significant further development both on and off the field; and further notes that the greatest achievement thus far in the history of the Club will be celebrated by today's supporters, players, directors and all volunteers associated with the Club as they prepare for further success in years to come.

584 East Lothian Roots and Fruits and National Lottery funding

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

**Kenny MacAskill
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens**

That this House congratulates East Lothian Roots and Fruits on receiving a grant for £8,873 from the National Lottery Community Fund; understands that the group will use the funding to run lunch and gardening groups, coffee mornings, activities, and to provide access to free food to reduce social isolation and improve mental health for people in Elphinstone; and wishes everyone involved the best of luck with their future.

585 Heavy Sound C.I.C and National Lottery funding

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

**Kenny MacAskill
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens**

That this House congratulates Heavy Sound C.I.C in East Lothian on receiving a grant of £9,980 from the National Lottery Community Fund; understands that the group will use the funding to run a couple of pilot projects around cycling and bike maintenance in order to build resilience, self-esteem, mental well-being and leadership skills for young people in East Lothian; and wishes everyone involved the best of luck with their future.

586 Lower Impact Living C.I.C and National Lottery funding

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

**Kenny MacAskill
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens**

That this House congratulates Lower Impact Living (Lil) C.I.C on receiving a grant of £8,330 from the National Lottery Community Fund; understands that the group will use the funding to run their annual Refuse Festival, develop circular economy awareness, and provide clothing and baby items

for families who are facing increased hardships linked to the cost-of-living in Haddington and across East Lothian; and wishes everyone involve the best of luck with their future.

587 The Ridge SCIO and National Lottery funding

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

Kenny MacAskill
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates The Ridge SCIO on receiving a grant of £34,245 from the National Lottery Community Fund; understands that the group will use the funding to continue providing their cost of living support services for people facing difficulties in Dunbar and surrounding areas; notes that the project will benefit a minimum of 75 people and will involve 10 volunteers over 12 months; and wishes everyone involved the very best of luck with this project and their futures.

588 Fisherrow Harbour and Seafront Association and National Lottery funding

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

Kenny MacAskill
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Fisherrow Harbour and Seafront Association on receiving a grant of £4,030 from the National Lottery Community Fund; understands that this grant will fund the fourth Fisherrow Harbour Festival to bring people together and learn about the seafront; and wishes everyone involved the best of luck with their future.

589 Queen Margaret University and National Lottery funding

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

Kenny MacAskill
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Queen Margaret University in East Lothian on receiving a grant of £5,760 from the National Lottery Community Fund; understands that the university will set up a Young Persons Advisory Group for twelve young people aged between eight and 18 years old to provide views, opinions and advocacy as a Patient Public Involvement group working with the NHS; and wishes everyone involved the best of luck with their future.

590 House of Hope

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

Christine Jardine
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates founder and CEO of cancer charity House of Hope, Lisa Fleming, on the launch of her fundraising campaign Brick of Hope; notes that this aims to raise £500,000 for

the charity to purchase a property in the Corstorphine area of Edinburgh; further notes that this is designed to become Scotland's first bespoke wellbeing and support centre for breast cancer; commends the plan to offer a wide range of activities, holistic therapies and peer support for women suffering breast cancer; understands that Lisa was diagnosed with secondary breast cancer in 2017; commends her inspiring work since then to raise more than £2 million since then to support secondary breast cancer education, research and awareness; and wishes Lisa, her family and friends success with their effort to establish this valuable space to improve breast cancer care and support.

591 Centenary of 1st Mearns Brownies

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 6

Kirsten Oswald
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House celebrates the centenary of the founding of 1st Mearns Brownies, based in Newton Mearns, and recognises that the important occasion will be marked with a coffee morning and a commemorative tree planting on Saturday 27 April 10.00am to 12.30pm at Mearnskirk Church Hall; understands that the coffee morning will also involve a special performance from the Brownies and that there will be stalls including home baking, raffles, tombola, a jumble sale and much more besides; notes that the money raised from the coffee morning will go towards new tents, craft supplies, and general unit funds, to support the work of young girls in Girlguiding; recognises that 1st Mearns Brownies has improved lives and communities over the past century, encouraging girls to achieve personal goals through a progressive programme which provides opportunities to work for a wide variety of badges while making new friends, growing in maturity and developing at one's own pace; and wishes everyone involved with 1st Mearns Brownies continued success for the next 100 years and beyond.

592 Maxwell's in Clarkston and the National Pub and Bar Awards

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 5

Kirsten Oswald
Jim Shannon
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Maxwell's, located in Clarkston, East Renfrewshire, on being named one of 94 County Winners of the National Pub and Bar Awards 2024; recognises that Maxwell's has been based in the Sheddens area of Clarkston for 10 years; notes that the National Pub and Bar Awards celebrates the pub and bar trade and assesses the excellence of this sector across a number of elements including design, service, style of offering, marketing and investment; understands that the grand final of the National Pub and Bar Awards will take place in London on 26 June 2024, with Maxwell's represented in the South of Scotland regional section; recognises the important social and economic role which pubs such as Maxwell's play in local communities across East Renfrewshire; and wishes everyone at Maxwell's the very best of luck ahead of the grand final of the National Pub and Bar Awards and for their continued success.

593 Tenant farming commissioner

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 5

Tim Farron
Jonathan Edwards
Jim Shannon
Richard Foord
Chris Stephens

That this House praises the work of Baroness Kate Rock in producing the Rock Review of the Tenanted Farming Sector; acknowledges the value of the more than 70 detailed recommendations the review makes; urges the Government to especially consider the recommendation for a tenant farming commissioner; notes the need for this position to tenant-proof all new agricultural payments schemes, to judge their appropriateness for tenant farmers and to ensure that tenants are not disadvantaged; further notes the success of the Scottish Government's existing tenant farming commissioner; and recognises tenant farmers' need for this commissioner to be their advocate and champion within Government.

594 Cockenzie House and Gardens grant from The National Lottery Community Fund

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

Kenny MacAskill
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Cockenzie House and Garden in East Lothian on receiving a grant of £227,400 from The National Lottery Community Fund; understands that the group will use the funding to acquire Cockenzie and Port Seton Old Parish Church and Hall to use as a community hub, offering community space for groups to meet, social activities, pop-up hospitality and childcare provision; and wishes everyone involved the best of luck with their future.

595 Bushido 100 Club

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 7

Kirsten Oswald
Stuart C McDonald
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar

Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates everyone at Bushido 100 Club, a group of students from Bushido Karate Association (BKA), on their significant fundraising efforts for cancer research; notes that Bushido 100 Club members are doing 100 push-ups per day during the month of April and have raised an impressive £5,268 as of 11 April 2024; understands BKA was founded on 28 April 1974 by Donald MacInnes in the Muirend and that the association has since expanded into numerous locations in East Renfrewshire, Glasgow and the surrounding areas; recognises that BKA has produced many individual and team champions throughout its history; further notes that BKA hosts many different clubs and classes across East Renfrewshire including at Fairweather Hall Newton Mearns, Netherlee Scout Hall, Williamwood High School, Greenbank Parish Church and Mearns Parish Church; recognises that the Association has done significant work to ensure classes are open to all, including running classes with coaches trained to support autistic members;

highlights that nearly one-in-two people will face a diagnosis of cancer during their lifetime and commends Bushido 100 Club for their fantastic fundraising efforts; wishes BKA Chairman Sensei John Elliot and everyone taking part in the 100 push up challenge all the very best as they continue their efforts throughout April; and applauds the dedication and hard work of all coaches and participants at BKA.

596 3 Dads Walking

Tabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **7**

Owen Thompson
Stuart C McDonald
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar

Chris Stephens

That this House commends the extraordinary efforts of Tim Owen, Mike Palmer and Andy Airey, collectively known as 3 Dads Walking, for their tireless dedication to raising awareness of suicide prevention among young people; welcomes them to Scotland and Midlothian as they continue their latest trek; acknowledges the profound impact of their new book Three Dads Walking: 300 Miles of Hope, which shares their deeply personal stories of loss and resilience; applauds their commitment to honouring the memory of their daughters - Sophie, Beth, and Emily - by advocating for suicide prevention measures; recognises their superb fundraising efforts for PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide; further recognises their call for age-related suicide awareness to be included in the national curriculum as evidenced by their petition which garnered more than 100,000 signatures; and highly commends their outstanding dedication, exemplary courage and invaluable contribution to the cause of suicide prevention.

599 50th anniversary of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster Mission Board

Tabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **4**

Mr Gregory Campbell
Jim Shannon
Sir Mike Penning
Rachael Maskell

That this House notes that March 2024 marked 50 years since the founding of the Mission Board of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster; further notes that since its inception funds have been raised to help alleviate hunger, assist in regions struck by earthquakes and war, missionaries have been trained and have worked in spreading the message of the transforming power of the gospel message of Jesus Christ in numerous countries across the globe; and commends those workers, volunteers and donors who have helped make the work as successful as it has become, from very small beginnings expanding to undertake the biblical instruction to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

600 Trapped podcast on IPP sentencesTabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **23**

John McDonnell
Liz Saville Roberts
Wendy Chamberlain
Jim Shannon
Kenny MacAskill
Richard Burgon

Mary Kelly Foy
Hywel Williams

Jonathan Edwards
Chris Stephens

Dr Philippa Whitford

That this House praises the tireless work by campaigners fighting against the injustice of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences, which were abolished in 2012 but not retrospectively, and commends the Trapped podcast for shining a powerful spotlight on the ongoing scandal of these indefinite and potentially never-ending sentences; agrees with the Lord Chancellor that IPP sentences are a stain on our justice system, and with the United Nations special rapporteur on torture that they have become cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment that could amount to psychological torture; welcomes Government proposals to reduce the licence period post-release for people serving IPP sentences but believes these reforms do not go nearly far enough; urges the Government and Opposition to commit to a bipartisan approach to resolving this miscarriage of justice conclusively by supporting the establishment of an expert panel to oversee a resentencing exercise for everyone serving an IPP sentence, as recommended by the Justice Select Committee; calls on the leaderships of all political parties to listen to the first season of Trapped so as to understand better the importance and urgency of such a resentencing exercise; and looks forward to the launch of the second season of this gripping, inspiring and heart-breaking podcast.

601 Newport History Group and the Alan Ball AwardTabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **3**

Wendy Chamberlain
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates the Newport History Group on winning a prestigious Alan Ball Local History Award which recognises outstanding contributions in local history publishing; commends the Group for winning Best Community History Project Publication 2023 for the publication of *Lest We Forget*, a follow up book to the 2022 Poppy Project book which commemorated 100 years since the unveiling of the Newport War Memorial; recognises that *Lest We Forget* provides a creative way for people to learn about the sacrifices made by members of the Newport community during the World Wars and the impact this had on Newport on Tay and its heritage; celebrates the hard work of the Newport History Group and the contributions from the local community to make the book possible; and looks forward to future publications.

602 The Book Nook, Stewarton

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 8

Alan Brown
Stuart C McDonald
Dave Doogan
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson

Ms Anum Qaisar

Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates The Book Nook, a local independent bookstore located in Stewarton, on its outstanding achievement of winning the Bookshop of the Year at the esteemed Scottish Independent Retail Awards 2024; expresses best wishes for forthcoming success at the UK-wide awards set to take place in London on 13th May; commends The Book Nook and its proprietor, Ms. Sarah Frame, for their exceptional role in epitomising the spirit of Kilmarnock and Loudoun and in representing the best of Scotland's rich literary culture on a national stage while propelling The Book Nook from strength to strength; further applauds the impact Ms Frame's work has made in the community, not least as recognised by the prestigious MP HERoes Award granted in November 2023; further pays tribute to The Book Nook's vital contribution to fostering a love of reading and literature among the young through engaging initiatives such as kids' book clubs, and applauds their ability to attract top authors for book signings and appearances, whilst keeping entry free of charge and therefore open to all; notes that this encouraging and benevolent model serves as an exemplary benchmark for local independent bookstores; and wholeheartedly encourages constituents and the nation alike to support local bookshops, which are the linchpins of our communities, ensuring that they continue to thrive as has been exemplarily demonstrated by The Book Nook of Stewarton.

603 Darvel Area Regeneration Team and The Corner Project, Darvel

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 8

Alan Brown
Anne McLaughlin
Stuart C McDonald
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson

Ms Anum Qaisar

Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates The Corner in Darvel on their outstanding achievement in winning the My Place Awards 2024 in the Community-led Project category; recognises the hard work and dedication of the local volunteers from Darvel Area Regeneration Team who have transformed the once abandoned site of the Darvel Industrial Cooperative Society into a vibrant and essential community space; applauds the success of The Corner in becoming a central hub for the community within its first six months, organising 12 formal events including a Halloween Special and a festive Christmas Fayre, drawing together over 200 local vendors and the participation of more than 4,000 visitors; the Darvelo cycling weekend as well as providing a venue for the valued meetings of young people's groups such as Brownies and Scouts, and serving as a focal point for walkers and cyclists alike; further celebrates the ongoing triumphs of DART who, were honoured recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service from the Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, an accolade equivalent to an MBE that recognises the team's tireless voluntary service and contribution to community life; and commends the exemplary model of community revitalisation demonstrated by The Corner and the Darvel Area Regeneration Team as an inspiration for similar projects across the United Kingdom, reflecting on the importance of volunteer-led grassroots movements in

strengthening community bonds, fostering local economies, and building a more connected and resilient society.

604 Baha'i, Iran

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 5

Sir Stephen Timms
Jonathan Edwards
Jim Shannon
Rachael Maskell
Chris Stephens

That this House notes reports in February 2024 of an attack on a Bahai educational gathering in a private home in the Iranian town of Ghaemshar; understands that those in attendance were students at the informal, but remarkable, Bahai Institute for Higher Education, which facilitates degree level study for Bahais denied access to Iranian universities; expresses concern at reports that agents of the Ministry of Intelligence beat one member of the group in front of his mother and of his classmates; and calls on the UK Government to raise the right to education of the Bahai community in bilateral and multi-lateral messaging to the Iranian authorities.

605 Matthew Knapman, Assynt Mountain Rescue

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 12

Drew Hendry
Brendan O'Hara
Anne McLaughlin
Douglas Chapman
Stuart C McDonald
Dave Doogan

John Nicolson
Richard Thomson

Jim Shannon
Ms Anum Qaisar

Dr Philippa Whitford
Chris Stephens

That this House commends 17-year-old Matthew Knapman from Inverness for his commitment to volunteering with Assynt Mountain Rescue Team; recognises that he was inspired to help others through mountain rescue following a mountain bike accident in 2022 where he received vital support; notes that he has assisted on two call-outs to date; celebrates his commitment to volunteering and fundraising; and pays thanks to Matthew and all others who serve our communities through mountain rescue for their dedication to the safety and wellbeing of others.

606 STV journalists' strike action

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 4

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House supports the decision by members of the Scottish Television (STV) workforce to initiate strike action on Thursday 28 March 2024 following an overwhelming mandate from a ballot in favour of industrial action due to the breakdown in pay negotiations at the broadcaster; acknowledges that this marks the start of a series of disruptions to STV's flagship news programming throughout the spring and summer seasons; recognises that the strike will

result in the depletion of newsroom resources in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Inverness; further recognises that the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) is advocating for a six per cent pay rise for its members to counter the effects of inflation amidst a record cost-of-living crisis experienced last year; observes that STV has only offered this increase to the bottom three per cent of earners, citing financial constraints despite recording profits exceeding £20 million on record revenues in the previous fiscal year; further supports the sentiment expressed by Nick McGowan-Lowe, NUJ Scotland National Organiser, who highlighted that STV journalists are not merely reporting on the cost-of-living crisis but are actively experiencing its ramifications and emphasises that these journalists, who contribute to STV's acclaimed journalism, are simply seeking a wage increase commensurate with inflation; urges Simon Pitts, Chief Executive of STV, and the STV Board to engage constructively with union representatives and reconsider their position recognising the reasonable demands of the workforce; and calls for a fair, equitable resolution to the dispute that respects the contributions of STV journalists.

607 Hillpark Bowling Club's centenary

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 6

Stewart Malcolm McDonald
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House celebrates the remarkable achievement of Hillpark Bowling Club as it commemorates its centenary; notes that for 100 years the club has been a beacon of community spirit, promoting sportsmanship and camaraderie; extends sincere thanks to all who run and support Hillpark Bowling Club for their dedication and contributions to the community; and congratulates Hillpark Bowling Club on this significant milestone.

608 Culloden Academy and the Scottish Cup 2024

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 12

Drew Hendry
Brendan O'Hara
Anne McLaughlin
Stuart C McDonald
Dave Doogan
John Nicolson

David Linden
Richard Thomson

Jim Shannon
Ms Anum Qaisar

Dr Philippa Whitford
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Inverness school Culloden Academy on its success in the Scottish Cup, with both the first-year girls' and senior girls' teams winning national basketball championship titles; notes the performance of the first-year girls' team, winning with a score of 59-25, and the senior girls' team, achieving a 88-38 win; commends the dedication and skill demonstrated by players, coaches, and staff involved in the Culloden Academy basketball programme; recognises the positive impact of physical education fostered by events like the Scottish Cup; and wishes Culloden Academy continued success in future sporting endeavours.

609 Alasdair RhindTabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **3**

Jamie Stone
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House recognises the great contribution made by councillor Alasdair Rhind to local government in the Highlands, in Tain and Easter Ross in particular; acknowledges that his recent untimely death has caused great widespread sadness; and notes that his contribution to public life will not be forgotten.

610 Bill Russell Woodburn Youth ProjectTabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **5**

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House celebrates the invaluable contribution of the Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project for its dedication to fostering a supportive environment for children and young people aged eight to 14 years old in Midlothian; notes with appreciation that the project has been awarded a grant of £18,114 to facilitate its one-year endeavour; recognises the significance of this funding in enabling the project to provide essential support and opportunities to up to twenty young participants through two drop-in sessions on Saturday afternoons; further acknowledges the positive impact of such initiatives in promoting social inclusion, personal development and community cohesion; and calls on the Government to support grassroots organisations like the Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project which play a crucial role in empowering young people and building stronger, more resilient communities.

611 Horizons Recovery Cafe SCIOTabled: **15/04/24** Signatories: **6**

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House recognises the critical role played by organisations in providing essential support to individuals recovering from problematic substance use; commends the Horizons Recovery Cafe SCIO for its commitment to aiding the recovery journey of up to 200 people from Dalkeith through its project spanning 20 months; acknowledges the significance of a recent £20,000 grant awarded to the project in facilitating its vital work; appreciates the dedication and efforts of the staff and volunteers in creating a safe and supportive environment for individuals navigating the challenges of substance misuse recovery; notes the positive impact of initiatives like the Horizons Recovery Cafe SCIO in promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion within the community; and calls on the Government to recognise their importance in addressing substance misuse and supporting people on their path to recovery.

612 LASC Childcare Services Ltd

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 5

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House acknowledges the significant contribution of LASC Childcare Services Ltd in supporting the Midlothian community through its initiatives; congratulates the organisation on receiving a grant of £77,582 which will facilitate the continuation of the vital role of the Link Community Hub Manager; recognises the importance of this funding in sustaining the valuable services provided by LASC; commends LASC's partnership with Edinburgh College in delivering an 18-week employability course for young adults thereby enhancing opportunities for skill development and employment prospects; and wishes everyone at the project continued success in their future endeavours.

613 One Dalkeith

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 5

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House celebrates the significant contribution of community-based organisations in enriching the lives of individuals and fostering community cohesion; commends One Dalkeith for its dedication to serving the Dalkeith community; notes with appreciation the receipt of a £132,839 grant to support its three-year project aimed at delivering learning and leisure activities to residents; recognises the importance of such initiatives in promoting social inclusion, personal development and overall well-being; applauds One Dalkeith's commitment to supporting approximately 172 people each week with the assistance of 50 dedicated volunteers; acknowledges the positive impact of this project in enhancing the quality of life for individuals within the community; and also applauds organisations like One Dalkeith for playing a crucial role in building stronger, more resilient communities.

614 Roslin Village Group

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 5

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House recognises the invaluable contributions made by community groups in enhancing the quality of life for residents and fostering a sense of belonging; commends the Roslin Village Group for its commitment to serving the Roslin community; notes the receipt of a £1,935 grant to support its one-year project aimed at empowering up to 20 volunteers; further notes the project's focus on encouraging children aged six to eight years old to engage in improving small garden spaces around a primary school in Roslin; acknowledges the positive impact of such initiatives in promoting community engagement, environmental stewardship and the development of valuable

skills among volunteers and children alike; and commends the Roslin Village Group's dedication to enhancing the local environment and fostering a sense of pride in the community.

615 Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 6

Owen Thompson
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House acknowledges and celebrates the recent grant of £9,680 awarded to Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club; recognises the vital role played by Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club in providing inclusive sports opportunities for people with disabilities; applauds the project's initiative to allocate funds towards part-time hours and facilities costs, ensuring the sustainability and growth of the multi-sports group; commends Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club for its dedication to serving 45 children and young adults with disabilities in Beeslack, Penicuik, fostering their physical and mental well-being through sports; further recognises the positive impact of sports participation on the lives of individuals with disabilities, promoting social inclusion, physical health and personal development; and further acknowledges the importance of community-based initiatives like Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club in creating accessible and supportive environments to allow people to thrive.

616 70th anniversary of Grangemouth Choral Society

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 6

Martyn Day
Jim Shannon
Dr Philippa Whitford
Richard Thomson
Ms Anum Qaisar
Chris Stephens

That this House celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Grangemouth Choral Society; notes the choir's work performing a wide-ranging repertoire of songs to audiences since 1954; recognises the wider role the choir has played in its local community, enhancing wellbeing in both its members and audiences; wishes the choir's members all the very best with its upcoming anniversary concert on 20 April at Bowhouse Community Centre; and further wishes the choir many more years of success.

617 National Lottery funding for Blackhall Children's Sports Committee

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

Christine Jardine
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Blackhall Children's Sports Committee on receiving a grant of £4,557 from the National Lottery; understands that this will be used to fund the Committee's annual sports day; notes that the 2024 Sports Day marks 125 years since the event was first held; commends the Committee for its commitment to bringing a wide range of diverse sport activities for children

across Blackhall; and wishes the Committee and the children involved success for their 2024 Sports Day.

618 National Lottery funding for Caledonia Funeral Aid CIC

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

Christine Jardine
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Caledonia Funeral Aid CIC on receiving a grant of £30,916 from the National Lottery; understands the group plans to use the funding for a one-year project to provide funeral cost and arrangement advice either for the bereaved families or for anyone looking for end-of-life planning support; commends the group for its range of support for people who have suffered a bereavement or planning end-of-life care, including help with funeral planning and expenses; and wishes the group continued success in future.

619 National Lottery funding for Muirhouse Millennium Centre (No. 2)

Tabled: 15/04/24 Signatories: 3

Christine Jardine
Jim Shannon
Chris Stephens

That this House congratulates Muirhouse Millennium Centre on receiving a grant of £8,720 from the National Lottery; understands this will be used to employ sessional staff, and to expand the range of items offered in their community food sharing shelf and baby bank; commends their range of initiatives to improve the wellbeing of families across northwest Edinburgh; and wishes the whole team at Muirhouse Millennium Centre continued success in the future.