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MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR LOTHIAN REGION

April 2025

SUPPORTING THROUGH SPRING

BULLETIN

> *Without support, our community falters. We must support each other this spring.*

AMPLIFYING PUBLIC PETITIONS & ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY

I am pleased to highlight the work of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee at Scottish Parliament. As a member since 2023, it is an honour to continue amplifying public voices and championing continues improvement.



We continue to work on embedding public participation in the work of the Scottish Parliament, emphasising the importance of transparency and accountability in decision-making.





I BACK SAVE RIVER CITY

WE MUST PROTECT SCOTLAND'S CULTURE SECTOR & ITS PRODUCTIONS



MEETING WITH LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS: RIGHT THERE

I had an inspiring meeting with Right There, a remarkable charity dedicated to preventing homelessness across Scotland. Celebrating an incredible 200 years of providing safe homes, they go above and beyond by offering family and emotional wellbeing support, as well as community outreach. Their sustainable approach ensures lasting care for individuals long after they've been housed. These essential services are exactly what Edinburgh needs to effectively tackle the housing crisis and create lasting change.

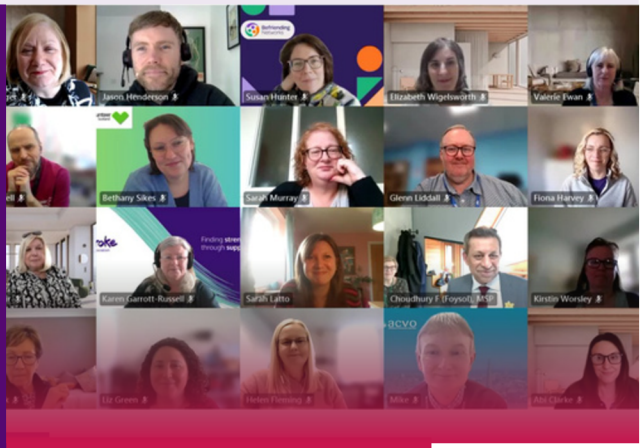
A MONUMENT TO LANGUAGE AND UNITY

I have been advocating for the establishment of a Shaheed Minar memorial in Edinburgh to honour the martyrs of the Bengali Language Movement of 1952. This monument would serve as a symbol of our city's commitment to cultural diversity and inclusivity, providing a dedicated space for reflection and remembrance.

READ THE ARTICLE

CALLING FOR ACTION ON VOLUNTEERING

I am deeply concerned about the noticeable decline in volunteering across Edinburgh and the Lothians. The pressures of the cost-of-living crisis, changes in post-pandemic lifestyles, and funding cuts to volunteer-led organisations have made it harder for people to give their time, even as the demand for community services continues to grow.



This drop in volunteer numbers is alarming, as so many vital services rely on their dedication and generosity.

We must come together to support and promote volunteering, ensuring it remains a strong and valued part of our society.





I remain concerned about the impact of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board budget cuts on our most vulnerable residents. While I welcome the council's decision to launch an emergency fund to support charities affected by these cuts, this must be seen as a temporary measure—not a long-term solution.

Essential health and social care services are the backbone of our communities, and we must prioritise transparency and accountability in decision-making. I will continue to advocate strongly for sustained investment in these critical services to ensure no one is left behind.

CELEBRATING CULTURE IN LOTHIAN

I attended St. Augustine's RC High School in Edinburgh, for Culture Day, which celebrated the rich diversity and talent within its student body of those aged 12-18. This event showcased the vibrant tapestry of the numerous cultural backgrounds of the students through dance, performance, music, language, and artistic expression. The day was a testament to the transformative power of cultural events in nurturing creativity, fostering inclusivity, and promoting mental well-being among young people.

> ***Culture is more than heritage, it's who we are***

The school's Culture Day mirrors the spirit of the iconic Edinburgh Festival and Fringe Festival, renowned for celebrating artistry, performance, and diversity. The event brought together students from an incredible array of cultural backgrounds, including Venezuelan, Nigerian, Irish, Polish, Brazilian, Bengali, Indian, Pakistani, and Russian heritage, to name just a few.



LET'S CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER SCOTLAND.

FOYSOL CHOUDHURY MSP

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