

# Early Day Motions (EDMs)

A published statement which allows MPs to show their opinion on a particular subject. Other MPs can add their name to show their support.

Can be used to:

- ▶ Draw attention to an issue
- ▶ Call for action
- ▶ Commemorate, congratulate, condemn



# How to use Early Day Motions

**YOU COULD:** Ask your MP to raise or sign an Early Day Motion (EDM) to raise awareness of your campaign.



**YOUR MP:** Can raise or sign an EDM on the subject you suggest.



**THE RESULT:** You can use the EDM as a subject for a press release or other awareness-raising activity, such as asking others to show it to their MP. The issue is recognised and highlighted within Parliament.



**THEN:** The EDM will be printed and put onto the internet. You can encourage other MPs can put their name to it to show their support.

# All Party Parliamentary Groups

Cross-party informal groups who explore different subjects.

- ▶ Any MP and Member of the House of Lords can join.
- ▶ Based around common interest (e.g. dyslexia, cider, Zimbabwe).
- ▶ Not involved in formal decision making, but important in developing knowledge.



# How to use All Party Groups

**YOU COULD:** Look up the members of a relevant group to see who might be interested in your campaign or subject.



**THEN:** write to them asking them to support you and your campaign through signing an EDM, asking a question or raising a debate.



**THE RESULT:** You have targeted a group of MPs and Lords who may be likely to support your campaign.



**OR:** call the secretary of the group (contact details on the internet or from the HoC information office) offering them some information about your experiences.

# Petitions

Petitions usually call on Government for some action regarding an issue, local or national.

- ▶ A petition must consist of at least one name and address and be set out in the correct format.
- ▶ Your MP will present the petition to the House of Commons.



# How to use Petitions

**YOU COULD:** Set up a petition and ask your MP to present it to Parliament.



**YOUR MP:** Can present your petition in the Chamber of the House of Commons.



**THE RESULT:** You can use the petition as a subject for a press release, photo opportunities at Parliament or other awareness-raising activity. The issue is recognised and highlighted within Parliament.



**THEN:** The petition will be sent to the relevant Government department (who do not have to act).

# Parliamentary Questions

Written or spoken questions asked by MPs and Lords, directed at Government.

Can be used to:

- ▶ Obtain information – statistics, policies, positions
- ▶ Press for action
- ▶ Raise constituency issues
- ▶ Challenge Government policy



# How to use Parliamentary Questions

**YOU COULD:** Ask your MP or a Member of the House of Lords to ask a question of a Government department.



**YOUR MP/Lord:** Can ask a written question (guaranteed an answer) or an oral question (oral questions are picked from a hat, so they are not guaranteed to get an answer).



**THE RESULT:** You have received a response from Government and raised awareness of the issue within Parliament. You can also use the information as part of your campaign.



**THEN:** Your MP/Lord will receive an answer to the question, which they will share with you.



# Parliamentary Debates

Debates which happen every day in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Allow MPs and Members of the House of Lords to:

- ▶ Raise constituency issues or matters of regional, national or international significance
- ▶ Get the issue to the attention of a relevant minister
- ▶ Get a response from the Government



# How to use Parliamentary Debates

**YOU COULD:** Ask your MP or a Member of the House of Lords to raise a debate.



**YOUR MP/Lord:** Can ask for a debate (these are picked out of a hat, so not guaranteed to be raised).



**THE RESULT:** You have received a response from Government and raised awareness of the issue within Parliament.



**THEN:** If picked, the debate will take place in the Chamber. You could encourage other MPs/Peers to go and take part.

# Select Committees

Committees which are set up to scrutinise specific areas of work and government departments.

- ▶ Work carried out through public inquiries
- ▶ Groups and individuals submit evidence to inquiries
- ▶ Inquiry report created and passed to relevant government department



# How to use Select Committees

**YOU COULD:** Submit evidence to a relevant Select Committee inquiry.



**OR:** Get in touch with the clerk of a relevant Select Committee and suggest a topic for an inquiry.



**THE RESULT:** Your experience or thoughts have been read by an influential group of MPs. Your recommendations may go to a Government department.



**THEN:** Your evidence/suggestion will go to the Committee, who will consider it and may include it as part of their report and recommendations to Government.