

Shettleston MSP helps to #SeeltChangelt



John spoke at the recent launch of the Scottish Youth Parliament's #SeeltChangelt POVERTY campaign in Glasgow Shettleston.

John welcomed the campaign and spoke about the underlying causes of poverty and how more can be done to tackle it.

The Campaign's three main aims are to;

- **See it.** – We want Scotland to have a more complete understanding of the reality of child and youth poverty.
- **Change it.** – We want to raise awareness about the one in five children in Scotland who live in poverty and demand change.
- **Keep it.** – We want to ensure elected leaders uphold the 2020 commitment to tackle child poverty.

Contact John Mason MSP directly...

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John Mason MSP Welcomes Named Persons Ruling

John Mason MSP has welcomed the Judicial Review ruling which rejected calls to block plans for the introduction of Named Persons as part of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act. Commenting, John said;

“The welfare of children is extremely important to all of us and it is absolutely essential that we do everything that we can to make sure that no child suffers. I do understand that some families and other groups might feel that this is unwarranted, however the issue is that there have been many cases in which parents did not know whom to go to for help and these plans are supported by a majority of people.”

“Some churches and Christian groups have strongly opposed this legislation, fearing it would lead to unwarranted interference in family life. However, other Christians have been strongly for this legislation, seeing it as a way of supporting vulnerable kids. There is no single Christian view on this matter. I am strongly supportive of this Act and hope that it will serve to help some of the most vulnerable children in Glasgow Shettleston and throughout Scotland.”

Bannerman High School Parliamentary Visit

John welcomed a class of visiting students from Bannerman High to Holyrood for a tour of the building and a Q&A session. The students were able to take in all of the sights and sounds of the Scottish Parliament, including the Debating Chamber, and got to ask a lot of interesting questions.

Are you interested in taking your local club, class or group for a similar visit? If so, please do get in touch!

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|  The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba | <h1>Parliamentary Patter</h1> | Parliamentary Report John Mason MSP |
| | | February 2015 |

Local MSP leads debate on Equal Pay

John Mason MSP continued to speak out on behalf of equal pay this month when he led a debate on the subject in the Scottish Parliament. The Glasgow Shettleston MSP is a firm believer that measures should be taken to bring the Minimum Wage rate of £6.50 closer to the Living Wage rate of £7.85. Commenting, John said;

“The key factor here is that employers should be paying their employees enough to live on. The basic principle of the Living Wage is the idea that it is the minimum rate required to live.”

“There is therefore something very wrong with the notion that someone can work full time without making enough money to live on. This is why I support increasing the Minimum Wage rate to match the Living Wage rate.”

“Whilst I support the Living Wage, the underlying problem with it is that it is voluntary. It only helps workers in the public sector, on public sector contracts or those who work for the few Living Wage employers. So are we just going to give up on the majority of workers in the private sector?”

“The only solution that would help them is through increasing the minimum wage.”



John Mason MSP Targets Anti-Semitism

John expressed his dismay at the recent rise of anti-Semitism across Europe in January as he lodged a motion in relation to the matter at the Scottish Parliament. John's motion made it clear that;

“... Jews, Muslims, Christians, people of other religions and people of no religion should all be treated equally and should all be able to live in a world free from the threat of violence or other discrimination.”

Motion S4M-12100: Anti-Semitism—19.01.2015

Motions lodged at Parliament in January:

- ♦ **S4M-12020: Charlie Hebdo Attacks** — Expressing sadness regarding the attack and affirming the importance of free speech.
- ♦ **S4M-12036: Metal Theft at Wellshot** – Condemning the recent metal theft at Wellshot Primary School. Which caused disruption for staff, parents and pupils.
- ♦ **S4M-12155: World Leprosy Day** — Recognising the passing of World Leprosy Day 2015 and raising awareness of leprosy as a modern day condition.

The full text of all motions can be viewed at <http://www.john-mason.org/category/motions/>