

PE1841/N

Campbell Duke submission of 23 February 2021

I write in support of this Petition.

I write to the Petitions Committee and express my deep appreciation that you have continued this particular Petition.

I write to plead with Government Ministers and Parliament to pass such legislation, notwithstanding the new "Guidance" anticipated on 24 February.

As best possible I keep abreast of Parliamentary deliberations. This Pandemic is a great leveller. We are all at risk. I appreciate the complexity of that with which Ministers and Parliament grapple. It is no small task.

We are often told that you are sympathetic. That you understand our pain. But these comments ring increasingly hollow. I know you'll say you know....but you don't know! I'm not going to apologise for my Special Pleading. I have family who are effectively "detained" in a care home and the Scottish Government seem to have become quite determined to keep it that way.

I know as Parliament sits and deliberates, many of you will claim to better understand The Big Picture. But, I believe, your seemingly grim and resolute determination to refuse to countenance "allowing" care home visits is becoming cruel beyond belief. Tragically I feel as if I am locked in a relationship with someone I greatly admire. But it's turning sour. It hurts. And you keep promising things will be better. But they never do.

A "woke" Parliament and Government would probably urge me to get out of such a relationship. You would probably enact laws and help shape the moral climate to bring an end to such abuses. To bring us to the better country of which we all dream.

And you have indeed been wonderfully "woke" in so many ways.

But you have it so wrong with people in care homes.

All because officialdom is so convinced of its much vaunted "Duty of Care". Though as concepts go this can be such an ugly two-edged sword.

Whilst we fashionably rail against discrimination and preach and legislate for all manner of equality, heaven help us if we have Alzheimer's and/or "live" in a care home. Especially in these Days of Lockdown.

I believe that the Scottish Government has allowed the very essence of Love, Family and Home to be distorted beyond measure. Carers now claim to be "family" to those in care homes, which sounds sweet until you are on the receiving end of such bizarre logic.

And NOW.....a Pandemic! I believe that people living in care homes were the easy low-lying fruit. Lock them up! Ban The Relatives! Job done!
Almost one year later there appears little intention of allowing people to resume their "real" Family Lives.

Ministers may call it responsible resolute leadership!
But this is just the latest and most hurtful in a long and weary catalogue of official indifference that has discriminated against people because they have conditions like Alzheimer's and live in care homes.

I do not believe this is about keeping them safe.

We know what we are protecting them "from"!

But what are we protecting them "for"?
Abuse is perhaps too strong a word.
But, I believe, it is most certainly good old-fashioned "Discrimination".
That's all it is. Discrimination!
And it grieves us beyond measure
I beg you please, as a fellow citizen through the auspices of The Petitions Committee, to pass this Law and put the long overdue necessary bite into Government "Guidelines"
Thank You