

# SNP Marion Fellows MP Motherwell & Wishaw

## Working for communities in Motherwell, Wishaw and Bellshill

### A message from Marion:

There is no question this has been a challenging Autumn. After thirteen years of Tory austerity, families across Scotland are suffering because of the Westminster cost of living crisis. It's painfully clear that while Scotland is still tied to Westminster and their dodgy economic plans, Scots will continue to feel the effects in their wallets. Labour offers no better alternative, providing no real plan for Scotland or our future. In fact, Labour policy flip-flops have reached the embarrassing stage. The latest remarks by MP Darren Jones shows yet again that Westminster will always override the concerns of the people in Scotland.

Abroad, an ongoing war in Ukraine and the Israeli-Palestine conflict is yet another tragedy. Innocent civilians must be protected, and international law must be upheld. In Westminster I raised this issue directly with the Foreign Secretary and called on the UK government to work towards an immediate ceasefire and to ensure aid reaches people trapped in Gaza. The dignity and compassion shown by our First Minister to both Palestinian and Israeli people should be a lesson for us all.

Finally, the UK parliament continues to show how archaic and out of touch it is after a key debate on help for people living with disabilities during the energy cost crisis was cancelled because of the King's Speech. It shows the ridiculousness of the UK parliament at its full, dysfunctional best. As SNP's Westminster spokesperson on Disabilities, I will make no apology for constantly raising the issues of disability and will continue to be an outspoken advocate for the community.

## Constituency Updates

### Braw Wee Shop

The Braw Wee Shop provides valuable workplace opportunities to those with additional support needs and is clearly making a positive impact on the lives of many.

It was lovely visiting the shop at New College Lanarkshire where I met such caring, enthusiastic and inspiring students! I can't wait to be back!



### National Autistic Society Scotland

It was lovely stopping by the National Autistic Society's Motherwell GLO Café branch to see first-hand the tremendous work of dedicated volunteers.



My Constituency Office remains open to support constituents by telephone or email.

If you have any questions or require any support please do not hesitate contacting me at [marion.fellows.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:marion.fellows.mp@parliament.uk) and **01698 337191**.

**Marion Fellows MP**  
**Motherwell and Wishaw**

## Poverty Action Network

The Poverty Action Network is about helping people.

This month I hosted another successful meeting to hear of all the excellent work being done across the constituency by local organisations such as Lanarkshire Links, Christians Against Poverty and Sacro Scotland, to name just a few. The Poverty Action Network provides an opportunity for organisations to share best practices and for a strong line of communication to be established that ensures everyone is accounted for.

We heard from VoiceAbility, who provided an update on their efforts of supporting people in decisions about health, care and wellbeing. Thank you to all who came!



### Deafblind & Sense Scotland

It's essential deafblind people have ongoing support and the recognition that they are equal members in society.

I had a productive meeting with Deafblind and Sense Scotland on practical ways to empower the deafblind community in Scotland and across the UK.



### October 2 - 8 Challenge Poverty Week Scotland

It is completely unjust that people are experiencing poverty in a wealthy country like Scotland. The first week of October was Challenge Poverty Week Scotland that raised awareness on efforts to make our society a more equitable one.

### October 6 - World Cerebral Palsy Day

Across the UK, there are approximately 30,000 children & 130,000 adults living with Cerebral Palsy. October 6 was World Cerebral Palsy Day – a day to raise awareness on people living with this condition.

### October 9 - 15 Baby Loss Awareness Week

Anyone impacted by pregnancy or baby loss need to know that they are not alone. Baby Loss Awareness Week provided an opportunity to raise awareness & offer a safe space for those affected.

# Updates from Westminster

## Calling for a Ceasefire

These past few weeks, I keep hearing the words of my mother: 'Twa wrangs dinnae make a right'. On October 18th, I rose in the House and directly asked the Foreign Secretary to work towards an immediate ceasefire and to ensure humanitarian aid gets into Gaza.

Hamas are an indefensible organisation in any right person's books, but the fact that they will not do right does not mean that the UK Government should not demand and work hard towards a ceasefire. I'm thinking repeatedly, as do many others, of helpless children. I am a mother and a grandmother, and that is what I think about every night.



## Wear it Pink

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and I was incredibly proud to Wear It Pink to raise money and awareness for life-changing breast cancer research.



## Calling on UK Government to Reverse Decision on Removing DVLA Services

The UK Government is removing DVLA services from the Post Office network that will impact millions of customers. As chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Post Offices, my clear message is that this decision is unacceptable. The Tory administration in Westminster has previously said that post offices would be the 'front office' of government in communities across the UK, yet this action is the opposite of that. The UK Government must listen and reverse this decision.

## World Mental Health Day

It's okay to not be okay. October 10th marked World Mental Health Day – a Global Day of Action for positive mental health and the world's biggest mental health check-in. Let's change for the better how we approach mental health in society.



## Wear Red Against Racism

On October 20th, I spoke in the House to acknowledge and raise awareness of Wear Red Day – a day to show racism the red card. It was encouraging to see so many take part in this important day and reinforce the themes to change hearts, change minds & change lives.



## October 12 - World Sight Day

The work of the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) is vital in creating a more accessible and fair society. I was proud to wear a RNIB badge at PMQs to demonstrate the importance of eye care in the workplace and beyond.

## October 29 - World Stroke Day

1 in 4 suffer a stroke in their lifetime, they can be caused by hypertension or high blood pressure and smoking but exercise and a healthy diet are great preventive measures. Strokes are the leading cause of disability world wide. World Stroke Day offers an opportunity to raise awareness over causes, prevention, treatment and support.

## November 12 - Armistice Day

I look forward to attending Remembrance Sunday Services across the constituency to remember those who gave their lives.

