



UNISON recently submitted a response, on behalf of Disabled members, to the Women & Equalities Select Committee within the UK Parliament. The submission was made in response to a follow-up inquiry looking at the impact of Covid-19 on people with disabilities. UNISON's response highlighted the gaps in Government guidance which leaves many disabled workers at risk.

UNISON is calling for:

- Increase in Statutory Sick Pay and extension to more low paid workers
- New right to home working for disabled workers who choose it
- A significant investment in Access to Work (A publicly funded employment support programme that aims to help more disabled people start or stay in work)
- Clear Government advice that shielding workers should continue to work from home from 1 August if it is possible to do so
- Extension of the furlough scheme for disabled people where it has not been reasonably possible to facilitate home working or redeployment.

Our branch is keen to ensure the voices of our disabled members are heard so we are currently looking for someone to take on the role of Disabled Members' Officer. If you are interested, please get in touch with the branch.



Many of you will have read about the awful anti-LGBT rhetoric brought to light during the presidential election in Poland. I wrote to Edinburgh Councillors last week regarding the official partnership agreement with Krakow and am pleased to see that this will be **reviewed**. Updates will follow.

I was excited to learn that a new LGBT+ centred café will be opening in Bruntsfield. Oskar and Zachariah have taken over management of the Greenwood café. They will run it as a sober and safe space for the LGBT+ community and supportive allies. **Their GoFundMe page** has surpassed the £5,000 goal which will enable the café to buy a video projector and additional items so they can host exhibitions after it opens in September. Well done to them!

After the pride flag was removed from Villanueva de Algaidas' town hall **500 Pride flags filled the Spanish town**.

On International Non-Binary People's Day (July 14th) a **Private Members' Bill** was introduced in the UK Parliament calling for the "X" gender option to be available on UK passports.

I encourage UNISON members to sign the **Scottish Parliamentary petition** calling for a ban on LGBT+ conversion therapy which is horrific and has no place in a progressive Scotland.

