

# LDDA NEWS

Liberal Democrat Disability Association Newsletter  
Brighton Spring Conference Special March 2013



Dear Liberal Democrat Disability Association

Congratulations on reaching this important milestone and for the hard work and efforts you have put in campaigning to further the rights of those with disabilities both within the Liberal Democrats and across the nation as a whole over the past 21 years.

I look forward to celebrating the LDDA's 21st birthday and coming of age with you all in Brighton at stall 21 in the exhibition!

Best wishes for the next 21 years

*Tu Faraan*

The Deputy Leader congratulates LDDA on its 21st Anniversary

*Simon Hughes*

Midshire wish LDDA all the best during its 21st Anniversary Year



Congratulations to LDDA on your 21st Birthday from Prater Raines Ltd



# Draft Emergency Motion on the ERR Bill

Following our Chair's successful attendance at the EMLD Executive's recent meeting (see p15) both execs have worked hard to transform our original draft motion.

The final version submitted to the Conference Committee is set out below.

It has to go through several hoops before we end up debating it at 0900 on Sunday morning!!!!

Once it has been accepted by the Conference Committee there will be a ballot on Saturday at Brighton. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

So if you are a voting Conference rep attending Brighton please place this motion as your no.1 choice. If you are not a voting Conference rep, or not attending Brighton, please urge those you know will be there to vote positively.

## Maintaining Equal Rights in Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

Conference notes:

1. As of 4th March 2013, The House of Lords has voted to amend clause 57 of the Enterprise and Regulation Reform Bill to insert the new clause Equality Act 2010: caste discrimination.
2. The Enterprise and Regulation Reform Bill Clause 58 proposes to remove section 40 of the Equality Act which will remove any prevention of harassment of employees by employers or colleagues. This is yet to be heard.
3. The Enterprise and Regulation Reform Bill Clause 59 which proposes to remove sanctions for those that breach the equality act. This is yet to be heard.
4. The report stage of the bill in the Lords saw some changes to the bill but that these might not be retained when it returns to the Commons

Conference supports;

- i. The Liberal Democrat constitution preamble which commits us to the value of equality
- ii. The statement by Nick Clegg that: "Our equalities legislation is considered the best in Europe and has transformed discrimination in the workplace. The Equality Act is a cornerstone of the UK's culture of fairness. It isn't there for employers to pick and choose from. And it is not going away."
- iii. The importance of the EHRC's obligation support a society where people's potential is not limited by prejudice or discrimination, where there is respect and protection of human rights, where there is respect for the dignity and worth of each individual, where individuals have an equal opportunity to participate in society and where there is a mutual respect for equality and human rights and valuing of Diversity
- iv. The Liberal Democrat commitment to ensuring equal citizenship for all diversity strands including those with disabilities as debated at conference in September 2012

Accordingly, conference calls upon Liberal Democrats in government to:

- A. Oppose Conservative attempts to weaken the Equality Act and in particular to oppose any weakening of the Public Sector Equality Duty;
- B. Object and voice opposition to proposals to remove duty not to harass
- C. Object to proposals which would remove the promotion of good relations between different groups and valuing diversity
- D. Apply the whip to ensure all proposals which endanger the rights of diverse groups are voted against in stages through parliament
- E. Uphold the values of equality by maintaining the rights of diversity strands in employment

# Liberal Democrat Disability Association



## Vision

**A world where everyone affected by disability can live life to their full potential and secure the care and support they need to gain independence and empowerment.**

## Mission

- 1 To work towards the election of Liberal Democrats to all levels of local, regional, devolved and national government in the United Kingdom and to the European Parliament.
- 2 To promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities within the Liberal Democrats.
- 3 To scrutinise Liberal Democrat policies to ensure they reflect the rights and needs of people with disabilities, their carers and their families and make appropriate recommendations for future policy and seek amendments to current policy.
- 4 To promote the Liberal Democrat message to disabled people who are not currently members.

**Do you share our vision?**

**Do you agree with our mission?**

**... If so, then please join us!**

**[www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk](http://www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk)**

# Liberal Democrat Disability Association



**Raising awareness  
& understanding**



**Championing opinions**

**Encouraging people  
with disabilities to  
take up positive  
opportunities**

**Supporting people  
with disabilities**

**RECRUITING MEMBERS!!**

**All supporters and  
carers welcome.**

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