

# Subject: Motions

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>London Assembly (Plenary)</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>7 March 2024</b>
<b>Public Access:</b>	<b>This report will be considered in public</b>

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Assembly is asked to consider the motions set out which have been submitted by Assembly Members.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Assembly considers the motions submitted by Assembly Members.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Caroline Russell AM** and will be seconded by Andrew Boff AM

**“This Assembly notes that:**

- **The Mayor’s 2022-2025 Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy seeks to create a safer city for women and girls. The strategy commits MOPAC to supporting people involved in sex work, “exploring options from harm minimisation to safe exit should they choose to do so”.**
- **Sex work is effectively criminalised, typically on the legal grounds of ‘Loitering or Soliciting, ‘Brothel Keeping’ and ‘Controlling prostitution for gain’.**
- **A key element of reducing harm to people involved in sex work is the full decriminalisation of sex work, as supported by the World Health Organisation, UNAIDs, the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, Amnesty International, and many other organisations, including most importantly organisations that represent sex workers themselves.**

- **Criminalisation of sex workers or their clients puts sex workers in danger, worsens their health outcomes, and pushes them further into poverty; and that sex workers who are migrants, trans and/or women of colour are particularly harmed by criminalisation.**
- **The National Police Chiefs' Council's own guidance instructs officers as follows: "Don't start from a position that treats sex workers as criminals simply for being sex workers or engaging in practices that have been undertaken to increase their own personal safety, such as, 'managing or keeping brothels' under S.33 of the 1956 Sexual Offences Act. Do focus on those exploiting sex workers or committing crimes against them."**
- **Commitment to not caution, arrest or prosecute sex workers who are working on the street or working with others indoors would protect sex workers and bring police practices in line with their own guidance, which states that "the police starting point should ensure that we do not start from a position that treats sex workers as criminals simply for being sex workers".**

**This Assembly calls on the Mayor to:**

- **Reduce harm to sex workers in London by calling on the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to cease to caution, arrest or prosecute all sex work.**
- **Work with the MPS to institute an amnesty from arrest for all sex work-related offences such as 'Loitering or Soliciting, 'Brothel Keeping' and 'Controlling prostitution for gain', including to encourage reporting experiences of violence.**
- **Increase the MPS' prioritisation of sex workers' reports of violence.**
- **Coordinate with boroughs to provide emergency housing and financial support for sex workers in crisis, without any expectation that they exit sex work in order to access these resources."**

3.2 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Marina Ahmad AM** and will be seconded by Anne Clarke AM:

**"This Assembly notes that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has changed the way it refers benefit claimants to foodbanks. New signposting 'slips' will only contain basic information about local foodbanks, rather than a referral for claimants.**

**The Assembly further notes that between April 2022 and March 2023, the Trussell Trust gave out 384,477 emergency food parcels to Londoners.**

**The Assembly also notes that the overall price of food has risen by around 25% between January 2022 and January 2024 while the rate of Universal Credit has only risen 3.1% in 2022/23 and 10.1% in 2023/24.**

**The Assembly welcomes the Mayor of London's support for the Trussell Trust and Joseph Rowntree Foundation's 'Guarantee Our Essentials' campaign. No one should have to rely on foodbanks.**

**The Assembly is concerned that DWP changes to foodbank referrals could prevent Londoners from accessing much needed support and assistance and regrets and that the need for foodbanks is growing.**

**This Assembly gives our thanks to foodbank volunteers and donors, whose efforts ensure that those let down by insufficient Government support can access basic goods.**

**This Assembly calls for:**

- **The Mayor to continue to lobby the Government for an increase in the rate of Universal Credit, ensuring Londoners are guaranteed the essentials they need**
- **The Chair of the Assembly to write to the DWP to ask for clarity on the change to referrals to foodbanks and outline how Londoners will be assisted to access food parcels.**

3.3 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Sem Moema AM** and will be seconded by Sakina Sheikh AM

**“This Assembly welcomes the ‘National Renters Manifesto’ published by several organisations that represent and support private renters including Generation Rent.**

**This Assembly affirms support for the required changes set out in the Manifesto which are based on 5 key areas of Security, Standards, Affordability, Fairer Private Renting and, Homes for People Not For Profit.**

**This Assembly notes that 3 in 10 people in London live in the private rented sector but that conditions for renters remain difficult. In the 12 months to June 2023 the sector saw a 5.3% rental price increase and nearly a fifth (18%) of privately rented homes in London fail to meet the national Decent Homes Standard.**

**The Assembly notes that everyone deserves a secure, affordable, and decent home. 10 months on from the introduction of the Renters Reform Bill to Parliament in May 2023, legislation to protect and enhance renters' rights is yet to materialise. Urgent action is required to fix the broken renting system and improve the lives of London’s 2.7 million private renters.**

**This Assembly calls on:**

- **The Mayor to endorse the ‘National Renters Manifesto’ and to take steps within his powers to enact the policy commitments set out in the Manifesto.**
- **The Mayor to reaffirm his call to the Government for devolved powers to enable necessary action to be taken in London regarding the management of rent and landlord licensing.**
- **The Government to urgently progress the Renters Reform Bill and enact a ban on section 21 no-fault evictions. ”**

3.4 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM** and will be seconded by Hina Bokhari AM

**“This Assembly notes that:**

- **For over five years now residents on both sides of the Hammersmith Bridge have suffered through congestion and diverted public transport routes as a result of the bridges closure.**

- **The traffic chaos has extended far beyond the banks of the river itself and has caused congestion throughout south west London, with redirected vehicles clogging up streets they otherwise wouldn't be using.**
- **The closure also means that people in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames have effectively been cut off from bus links that connected them to the wider tube network in Hammersmith.**
- **A business case for the repair works was submitted by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham in December 2022 and is still awaiting a decision from the UK Government.**

**This Assembly calls for:**

- **The Mayor as both Chair of Transport for London and Mayor of London to use his convening powers to do everything possible to support the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham in its efforts to repair the bridge.**
- **The UK Government to recognise its failure to accept the bridge's business case is delaying the progress of repairs.**
- **The UK Government to commit to the full release of funds from the Department for Transport for the bridge's strengthening works."**

3.5 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Sakina Sheikh AM** and will be seconded by Sem Moema AM:

**"This Assembly celebrates International Women's Day on the 8 March 2024 and notes this year's theme #InspireInclusion.**

**International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality and to tackle discrimination.**

**All Londoners can play a role in achieving this aim.**

**Despite the first International Women's Day being held over a century ago in 1911, there is still a long way to go to achieve gender equality. According to the World Economic Forum, we will not see gender parity in our lifetime and it will not be attained for well over a century.**

**GLA Economics showed that London's gender pay gap was 11.9% in 2023. Pay gaps across the UK have been steadily falling since 1997 but progress in the narrowing of the pay gap in London has slowed since the early 2010s. The gender pay gap in London is now 4.2 percentage points higher than the UK level.**

**This Assembly notes that gender discrimination creates economic losses for society through misallocation of talent and lower productivity.**

**This Assembly supports the call for gender equality and commits to inspiring inclusion for women in London throughout its work."**

3.6 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Len Duvall AM** and will be seconded by Marina Ahmad AM:

**“The Assembly notes its concern that the UK economy is now in recession having contracted during the final two quarters of 2023.**

**This highlights the Government’s catastrophic handling of the economy, presiding over the disastrous mini budget, an acute cost of living crisis and rising inequality.**

**London is feeling the impact of this economic failure, with more than one million Londoners claiming Universal Credit, of which almost half reported experiencing food insecurity, and homelessness, with rough sleeping rising sharply.**

**The Government has also overseen an increase in the number of people unable to work due to long-term sickness which has reached a record 2.8m people. With NHS waiting lists also at record highs, the Government must urgently address this crisis so people can get the care they need to return to or stay in work.**

**The Mayor has stepped up to support low-income Londoners through his Universal Free School Meals programme, his Pension Credit campaign, and his decision to freeze transport fares but too many Londoners are struggling to make ends meet.**

**The Assembly calls on the Mayor to:**

- **Lobby ministers to strengthen workers’ rights for all workers by banning zero-hours contracts, ending fire and rehire, and scrapping qualifying periods for basic rights, which leave working people waiting up to two years for essential protections.**
- **Lobby ministers to urgently address NHS waiting lists so that Londoners receive the care they need to stay in work.”**

3.7 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Léonie Cooper AM** and will be seconded by Andrew Boff AM:

**“The London Assembly notes that LGBT+ history month took place in February 2024, with the theme of medicine. It celebrates LGBT+ peoples’ contribution to the field of medicine and healthcare whilst shining a light on the LGBT+ community’s experience of inequalities in receiving healthcare.**

**The Assembly would like to thank campaigners and activists for organising events in London and at the GLA to celebrate the huge contributions made by LGBT+ Londoners to our city. LGBT+ History Month also plays a key role in providing an opportunity to reflect on the discrimination that is still faced by London’s LGBT+ communities.**

**The Assembly notes the government’s commitment to invest over £20 million in this area, to deliver a national HIV prevention program to raise awareness of HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) testing and prevention strategies. Through Integrated Care System (ICS) allocations, this included £5 million for hospitals across London in 2022-23.**

**The also Assembly notes that some LGBT+ Londoners are in at-risk groups for HIV transmission and that London has made significant progress towards achieving the Mayor and government’s target to eliminate new HIV transmissions in London by 2030. In 2022, London became the first city in England to establish opt-out HIV testing in all emergency**

departments, which has led to hundreds of people living with HIV being identified and supported with treatment for the first time.

The Assembly calls on the Mayor to:

- 1) Consider how TfL's advertising estate can support campaigns that raise awareness of HIV and testing in the run up to 2030, the target date for eliminating new HIV transmissions.
- 2) Continue to work through the London Health Board and with public health agencies to continue London's progress towards eliminating new HIV transmissions by 2030.
- 3) Update the Assembly on progress with the HIV/AIDS memorial."

3.8 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Zack Polanski AM** and will be seconded by Hina Bokhari AM:

**"This Assembly notes:**

- London's theatre and art communities are in crisis across our city and deserve the full support of their Assembly Members and Mayor.
- London's City Hall is ready and able to host more vibrant cultural performances, drawing Londoners from across their city into this beautiful civic space.
- That while the Mayor has already made a commendable start at investing in London's creative industries through various Mayor's Decisions, we would applaud directing more theatrical live performances to City Hall itself.<sup>1</sup>

**This Assembly calls on the Mayor to:**

- Commit to supporting live performances of arts and culture over the year - specifically theatre – including at least one such performance in London's Living Room at City Hall each year, put on by and for Londoners.
- Commission a London Playwright in Residence each year to a) write a piece of art relevant to Londoners and b) host a performance at City Hall."

3.9 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Anne Clarke AM** and will be seconded by Sakina Sheikh AM:

**"The London Assembly notes that the London elections are being held on 2 May 2024 and it's important that every Londoner who wishes to vote is registered before the deadline of Tuesday 16 April.**

**According to the Electoral Commission, the 'completeness' of the electoral register in London was 82% in 2022, meaning that 18% of eligible voters were not on the electoral register. Young people; Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic and migrant Londoners (including Commonwealth and EU Londoners, in line with voting rights); and private and social renters are all underrepresented on the electoral register.**

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<sup>1</sup> MD2811, MD2791, MD3039, and MD2963.

**The Assembly is concerned about under-registration and the requirement for voters to present photo ID at polling stations for the first time at a London-wide election.**

**The Assembly notes the GLA’s support for voter registration efforts including initiatives such as London Voter Registration Week which aims to increase voter registration rates, particularly among harder to reach groups.**

**The Assembly calls on the Greater London Authority to increase voter registration communications in the run up to the deadline on Tuesday 16 April. ”**

3.10 The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Keith Prince AM** and will be seconded by Neil Garratt AM:

**“This Assembly strongly opposes the introduction of London-wide, pay per mile road user charging and urges the Mayor to instruct TfL to stop spending any time or money preparing for its introduction.”**

#### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 The Assembly has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

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#### **List of appendices to this report:**

None.

#### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

List of Background Papers:

None.

#### **Contact Information**

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