

Cross Party MP's and Business Leaders Unite and Call on the Government to Support the Excluded



On 30th June 2021, **Excluded Unity Alliance (EUA)** hosted its first lobbying event at Westminster with powerful support from a cross-party line up of speakers. The event was held to pay respects to 25 individuals from the Excluded communities who tragically took their own lives due to their untenable financial situation and for those who are still denied access to any meaningful financial support from the Conservative Government.

The impassioned and inspirational cross party MP's and business leaders united in their cause to fight for support for Excluded taxpayers and to stop the resulting mental health crisis. The key points from each speech are featured below.



Esther McVey MP, Conservative

“People cannot live on fresh air, people cannot go on not knowing what is happening to them. You have to pay to exist day to day, week to week and the people here for such a prolonged period of time have had no support and it's not just the financial drain, it is the emotional drain, it is the physical health drain that has affected so many people.”

“I'm here now with the Excluded Unity Alliance group and we will continue that battle and that fight, it is not fair and it is not right.”



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Ian Blackford MP, SNP

“By god, what a bunch of tyrant people. It is the lack of humanity, it’s the lack of compassion, and I make no apology that a few months ago that I said in Parliament that a number of people had committed suicide. That’s a very emotive thing to say and I knew that elements of the press would come after me but we needed to bring home to the Government the scale of the human cost, what this was doing to people, what this was doing to families, what this was doing to relationships, what this was doing to people’s mental and physical health. And in a time of need, the Government, the Prime Minister, the Chancellor simply walked away from their obligations.”

“I had a conversation with the Chancellor, and he said to me that the Excluded could claim Universal Credit. I tried to argue with him that these are people, who through no fault of their own, were going to lose their income, he had an obligation to them but he simply didn’t get it. He simply didn’t get it because he simply doesn’t understand. He doesn’t understand what it is like to be in that situation, when you are going to be on your knees, when you can’t meet your liabilities”.

“I am still so angry that the opportunity was right there at the start and has remained all the way through the crisis, that could have dealt with and this has not been taken up”.

“What is a Government if it isn’t there to support people? Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak have an awful lot to learn.”



Jonathan Banks, Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesman

“The mantra from the Treasury and Government was that ‘no-one would be left behind’. They were. In large numbers. A complete disaster this Government should, and almost certainly did foresee.”

“3.8 million people deserve proper answers. The time for that is now, 16 months from Mr Sunak’s proclamation. To be incredibly clear the Government have NOT done what they promised to do.”



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Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, Leader, DUP

“I think the Government is going to pay a far higher price, the Treasury is going to pay a far higher price than what we would have done had we included people in the scheme when it comes to the Health Service, the impact on our mental health services, it is going to be enormous. There is a tsunami coming down towards us in terms of the way people have suffered during this pandemic and particularly with their mental health and I think that is going to have a huge impact in terms of a recovery programme. My view was and the view of all of the APPG was very simple; if we need to extend ourselves further now and put a bit more money in to support a wider group of people, the investment made now would ensure that the recovery is quicker, is less costly, and the UK will be back on its feet quicker.”

“The most important thing in our country today is not the economy, it is the people. The first duty of a Prime Minister is the security of the people, their safety, their protection, that’s our first responsibility. We’re elected by the people, it’s supposed to be government of the people, for the people, by the people. We’re your representatives, we’re your delegates, you delegate us to represent you and therefore I think that the Government must invest in the human capital of this nation”.



Martin Goss, PCC and Lib Dem Group Leader

“Company directors, people wrongly refused furlough who are pay as you earn employees, marginalised minority groups and those who have fallen through the gaps continue to suffer. People have taken their own lives as they have received no support whatsoever. The Excluded Unity Alliance are going to change this.”

“I am pleased to see that cross party colleagues from Labour, SNP, DUP and fellow Lib Dems have come together as a voice of unity, as a voice of common sense against a burning sense of injustice”.



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Paula Barker MP, Labour

“So I joined the APPG, I signed letters, I’ve done social media, I’ve had meetings with my constituents, and this fight and my solidarity will continue until you get the justice that you so rightly deserve. Your fight of being excluded will not be forgotten.”

“Life is so incredibly precious and no one should feel so lost because the system has failed to provide adequate support”

“This is also a time for re-engagement, to remind those in power that we are going to hold them to account and indeed the nation’s press, that the voices of everyone here today and those at home worrying about making ends meet, your collective voices will not be silenced and they will not be ignored. The truth must now be known. You know, I know, that no events like this should have to be taking place today, we shouldn’t be here. Why are we here? This Government, this Prime Minister, this Chancellor should have sat down with Excluded Unity Alliance a long time ago to identify the gaps in many Government packages and ensured that no one person or group was left behind and certainly not more than 3 million people so that when they said they ‘will do whatever it takes’, they actually meant it rather than leaving our entrepreneurs, our self-employed, our freelancers and our artists on the scrap heap.”

“I do make this promise to you today, I will continue to ask questions of the Government, I will take whatever action I can to ensure that your voices are heard and this grave injustice is rectified. You have my unwavering support and solidarity.”





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Brian Donaldson, Excluded NI

“It is not very often that Northern Ireland manages to outshine another region of the UK. We’ve been able to write schemes, develop schemes, and what happened was we managed to get in the ear of Civil Servants and the Civil Servants were willing to listen and that is the most difficult skill for anyone to do in power is to listen to somebody”.

“The Northern Irish Limited Company Director Scheme is the only region in the UK that has such a scheme. Those people had no hope but we didn’t give up, we fought and fought and we worked with the Government who allowed us to work with them, that is where the Tory Government is letting the UK down”.

“The CRBSS is for self-employed sole traders, individual businesses, stand alone such as rent-a-chair hairdressers, taxi drivers, driving instructors who got £600 per week for 26 weeks. Massive money when you’ve had nothing for so long. It was that grant support that saved lives”.

“There are also schemes for supply chains so not only if you were closed down or restricted but if you worked with a sector that was closed down, there was £300, £600 or £800 per week available for 26 weeks. This is money no one in the Excluded group would turn down as it gets your business back up off the ground, it lets you pay the mortgage, it lets you feed your children and those were the things the Government didn’t understand. There is no reason why Rishi Sunak cannot lift these schemes from Northern Ireland and use them across England, Scotland and Wales; we need equality across everything we do.

“I don’t see why there is any reasonable reason other than Rishi Sunak cannot admit fault. He seems to be saving face rather than delivering for the people who have elected him. At the end of the day, he is elected by the people to serve the people and he is failing every single one of us”.





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Torrin Wilkins, Founder and Director Centre Think Tank

“We have given this Government plan after plan after plan on how to solve this. I have written so many plans I, literally, am sinking in them and yet the Government does not take any notice and when it does, the answer is simple, you’re a fraud risk. I simply did not understand that at first because I was seeing small businesses being told they were fraud risks - they weren’t really worth saving, they were just collateral damage. And for me I started realising they were not doing what they were supposed to. The Government was not caring for people and I think if the Conservatives want a message today, its quite simple. You need to do the right thing. Not just for those people who are suffering but also because of the economy”.

EUA will not stop in our fight for support for Excluded taxpayers. As the economy opens up, it is even more important that they are not left behind and that the Government is reminded of the continual pain we feel every single day. We urge the press to give the people still denied access to schemes a voice.



Future events: Newcastle 14th July, Liverpool 7th August

Press Release Date: 5th July 2021



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