



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01830

Name of petitioner

James Watson on behalf of Friend's of Dennistoun war memorial

Petition title

Protect Scotland's war memorials

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce legislation which recognises desecration or vandalism of war memorials as a specific criminal offence.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have contacted every member of the Scottish Parliament.

Petition background information

I am chairman of the 'Friend's of Dennistoun war memorial' group. Our group raised almost £20,000 within our community to place a memorial remembering Dennistoun's fallen. The memorial now sits within the entrance of Dennistoun's Alexandra Park. Shortly before the unveiling of our memorial in September 2018 it was subject to a disgusting attack where it was set alight. This act devastated the entire community. What was once a crime that very rarely occurred is now becoming a regular occurrence in Scotland. From 2017 to 2020 there have been over 20 attacks on memorials the length and breadth of Scotland that I am aware of. These are listed below:

- Dennistoun war memorial Glasgow September 2018
- Polish war memorial Arbroath August 2018
- Angus war memorial November 2018
- Sanquhar war memorial March 2018
- Edinburgh garden of remembrance November 2018
- New Calton burial ground Edinburgh June 2017
- Tullibody war memorial November 2019
- Duchess of Hamilton park war memorial Motherwell June 2019
- Elgin war memorial October 2019 (twice)
- Aberdeen war memorial October 2019
- Robert the Bruce war memorial June 2020

- Helensburgh war memorial November 2019
- Cowdenbeath war memorial June 2018
- Alexandria war memorial May 2018
- Boer war memorial Glasgow February 2019
- Coatbridge war memorial November 2018
- Lerwick war memorial August 2019
- Govanhill holocaust memorial November 2019 (twice) and June 2020
- Penicuik war memorial November 2019

A war memorial is not a vehicle or a telephone box and vandalism to it should be a separate offence given what they mean to so many. Hundreds of thousands of Scots have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and I urge the Scottish Parliament to introduce legislation that further protects the memorials dedicated to them

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/ProtectScotlandsWarMemorials>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

12 / 11 / 2020

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Do you agree we need to protect Scotland's war memorials with new legislation?