

Beijing drivers to face fines for not giving way to pedestrians

Beijing traffic police Thursday began enforcing a fine of 200 yuan (29 U.S. dollars) for motorists who fail to give way to pedestrians on crosswalks.

The violation will also result in a loss of three demerit points. When motorists lose all 12 points they must retake the driver's license test.

Traffic police and volunteer civilian assistants will be stationed at the first batch of 46 crossings within the city to enforce the rule. It has been made clear that even if a right turn on a red light is generally permitted, drivers must stop for pedestrians.

The enforcement of the fine comes days after surveillance camera footage went viral showing a woman in central China's Henan Province being hit by a taxi while on a crosswalk. Lying on the crosswalk, she was run over by a second car.

Traffic police records show that in the capital last year, 18 people were killed, and another 21 injured in 37 accidents that involved motorists failing to give way to pedestrians on crosswalks.

Join The Great Get Together in memory of Jo Cox

On Friday, it will be one year since the appalling, hate-filled murder Labour MP Jo Cox.

Her friends and family don't want it to be a mournful occasion. Jo was a passionate campaigner, and inspired by her, they want us to channel our horror and grief into something positive.

So, they're spending the weekend celebrating what we have in common, and they've asked us to join them. It's called The Great Get Together, and it's a very simple idea: they're asking you to do something – big or small – to bring our communities together on 16 – 18 June. Will you join in?

At last count, 111,197 events are already planned across the country – from picnics of local schools to street parties, football tournaments and community iftars (breaking of the ramadan fast). If Liberal Democrat members join in, the celebration of having more in common will be truly huge.

Just let the Jo Cox Foundation know that you want to join in and they'll send you a list of ideas for how other people are getting involved.

The idea of the Great Get Together was born out of that desire to carry on Jo's work and celebrate our shared humanity.

An incredible range of organisations and individuals are taking part from the Scouts and GirlGuides to the RNLI, RSPB, Women's Institute and Premier League. The Big Lunch have also agreed to move their annual celebration. Every faith is also taking part. With us taking part as well, this will be an incredible celebration of what we have in common.

Sign up now to say you're in, and get full information on how you can join in, wherever you live.

[Get involved](#)

[Jeremy Corbyn statement- Grenfell Tower fire](#)

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party said:

"I feel very angry that it was possible for the fire to spread in the way it did. I feel very angry that so many lives have been lost when the system didn't work.

"The many residents I met today are very angry too; their concerns about the building were not responded to and their questions were not answered.

"They asked me to speak for them when I get back to Parliament and I will make sure I do, alongside their new MP Emma Dent Coad.

"There are thousands of tower blocks around our country. Every single person living in one today will be frightened. They need answers to provide them with security and peace of mind.

"Kensington is a tale of two cities – it is among the wealthiest parts of this country but the ward where this took place is one of the poorest.

"The judge-led public inquiry must be speedy and all residents should have access to legal aid and the support they need.

"Residents must also be re-housed, using requisition of empty properties if necessary, in the community they love.

"I would like to give thanks to the firefighters who risked their lives to save the lives of others, and the police and the paramedics who did the same.

“Some hard questions need to be answered. It cannot be right that in the 21st century a fire like this happens.

“It’s the responsibility of Government to tell us why the lessons of Camberwell, Southampton and Shepherds Bush have not been learned.

“There must be a proper ministerial statement in the Commons when the Commons is once again sitting and the Government must also immediately make sure the families affected have the resources they need.”

[Empowering schools, teachers and parents](#)

Scotland has a good education system. Under the SNP, Higher exam passes are up a third. A record number of school leavers are going on to continued education, training or work. And more young people than ever before are studying at university – including more young people from deprived backgrounds.

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15 Jun 2017



John Swinney should apologise to parents at schools who want to come out of local authority control, following his statement in Holyrood today.

For years, the SNP has hinted it would allow parents, such as those at St Joseph’s Primary in East Dunbartonshire, to take control.

However, the education secretary said such a move would not be part of Scottish Government school reforms today, which instead focused on more minor measures.

The Scottish Conservatives have repeatedly called on ministers to give parents the power to take schools out of local authority control if it was in the best interests of teachers and pupils.

The campaign group linked to St Joseph's has also met with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon as part of its drive to make changes to Scottish Government policy.

Scottish Conservative shadow education secretary Liz Smith said:

"We want to see a school system that encompasses more choice and diversity, giving real devolution to headteachers.

"That's because we believe it's the existing system, not our teachers, which is responsible for delivering weaker standards in so many areas of our schools.

"So while we welcome the general principles behind the reforms, we don't think the reforms go nearly far enough.

"They are half-baked and only pay lip-service to real devolution.

"These reforms are not enough to deal with the root cause of the problems faced."

Scottish Conservative West of Scotland MSP Maurice Golden said:

"John Swinney owes the parents of St Joseph's a full apology.

"For two-and-a-half years, the parents of St Joseph's have been strung along by the Scottish Government.

"They've been led to believe that their plans would be given a fair hearing. It turns out those assurances counted for nothing.

"This whole episode has shown up a Scottish Government which doesn't listen.

"The SNP should be ashamed of the way it's handled this from start to finish."

The Scottish Conservatives have repeatedly called for parents to be able to take schools out of local authority control:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2015/02/first-ministers-warm-words-consensus-ring-hollow/>