

## **Text of PM's inaugural address (via video conference) at the Sri Ramakrishna Vachanamrita Satram, Tiruvalla, Kerala**

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## **President of India's message on the eve of Independence Day of St. Lucia**

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has extended his greetings and felicitations to the Government and people of St. Lucia on the eve of their Independence Day (February 22, 2017).

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## **Night flight restrictions at Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted**

The Government is currently consulting on proposals for night flight restrictions at Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted. The Government's proposals relate to:

- Environmental objectives
- The length of the restrictions
- The structure of the restrictions
- Movement limits at each airport
- Noise quota limits at each airport

The consultation can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2j4uhwI>. It closes on 28 February 2017.

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# Sarah Champion commenting on the Government's failure to act on cross-party recommendations to reduce the gender pay gap

**Sarah**

**Champion MP,**

**Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities,** commenting on the Government's failure to act on cross-party recommendations to reduce the gender pay gap, said:

"The cross party Women and Equalities Committee's recommendations aim to improve working conditions for women of all ages and sectors right across the country.

"But, sadly, it seems that their recommendations are again falling on deaf ears.

"The Government has systematically ignored the evidence the Committee, charities, experts and individuals have worked so hard to produce.

"This Government continues to ignore the voices and lived experiences of thousands of women in chronically low paid, under-valued sectors of the economy such as care, hospitality and retail. Industries where zero hour contracts and bad practice have been allowed to run rife.

"The structural causes of the gender pay gap must be addressed, otherwise women will simply continue to be left behind.

"The lack of meaningful response to the Women and Equalities Committee shows that when it comes to tackling the serious, underlying causes of gender inequality in our country, this Tory Government isn't willing to take the bold action needed."

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## Misuse of sanctions is further

# evidence of the Tory Government letting vulnerable groups down – Debbie Abrahams

**Debbie Abrahams MP, Labour's Shadow**

**Work and Pensions Secretary**, commenting

on the findings of the Public Accounts Committee report on sanctions, said:

"Two years after the Work and Pensions Select Committee inquiry the Government has failed to implement even their limited actions to address sanctions failings.

"This report makes it clear that sanctions have been used inconsistently to punish those struggling to get by with seven wasted years of austerity.

"This deplorable misuse of sanctions is further evidence of the Tory Government letting vulnerable groups down.

"Labour has committed to scrapping the Tories' punitive sanctions regime, under our plans to transform the social security system to ensure that, like the NHS, it is there for us all in our time of need."