

# [The government must do more to protect students.](#)

Two weeks ago, I joined forces with a cross-party group of MPs representing University Towns. We wrote to the Chancellor to ask him to **do more to support University Students during this crisis.**

The letter, signed by 18 MPs, asked him to “make sure that students are not the group to be forgotten as the nation is grappling with economic fall-out from the Covid19 crisis”.

Countless students have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and lockdown

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# [Emergency accommodation for people suffering domestic violence](#)

Last week Priti Patel announced that the Home Office is working with charities to **provide an extra £2m for domestic abuse support.**

We are relieved that the Home Secretary is taking these steps to **tackle the terrifying rise in domestic violence.**

**However, the Home Secretary can still go much further.** For far too many people, their home is not a place of safety. Many thousands of people are in the horrific position of being **isolated in the same place as their abuser.**

We must protect the victims of domestic violence during the coronavirus lockdown <https://t.co/2Z52qsInpH>

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [April 11, 2020](#)

The Liberal Democrats are calling on the Home Office to **work closely with hoteliers so that their hotels can be used as emergency accommodation, with the Government covering the costs.**

The Government must act now to **ensure that anyone who feels threatened has a guarantee of shelter.**

This announcement is of course welcome. However, the Home Secretary can still go much further.

The Government must act now to ensure that anyone who feels threatened has a guarantee of shelter. <https://t.co/hlnSfgpT8o>

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [April 12, 2020](#)

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## **Last call – contribute to the election review by midnight on Friday 17th April**

Amidst the current turbulence, we wanted to let you know **you still have a chance to contribute towards the Liberal Democrats election review.**

Hundreds of members, constituency teams, donors, door knockers and other activists have sent in their own reflections and submissions; all have been read

**The panel has been working intensively since appointment earlier in the year,** and the process is a thorough one; submissions have been requested from all current MPs, all former Lib Dem MPs, as well as candidates in key target seats (both Conservative and Labour facing). All Regional Chairs have been asked for submissions, and both Welsh and Scottish parties have contributed. Many individual local organisations and party bodies have conducted their own reviews which have been subsequently sent into the panel. There have been many hours of 1-2-1 interviews between the panel and key decision-makers in the Parliamentary Party, at HQ and with other team members across the organisation, including ALDC.

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## [A Passover like no other](#)

Tonight, at sundown, **Jewish communities across the globe will mark the beginning of Pesach/Passover.** Over the next eight days, in the UK and around the world, Jewish people will commemorate the liberation of their ancestors from slavery in ancient Egypt.

The story of Passover teaches that freedom is coming, our current situation will not last forever, and out of our trauma grows new strength

However, this year's Passover will be like no other in recent memory.

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## [Lib Dems lead cross-party call for improved mental health support amidst Covid-19 crisis](#)

Social distancing means millions are now home alone, facing the prospect of only the most minimal contact with another soul for months. This isolation is likely to have a **grave impact on their mental health.**

Millions more, without being completely isolated, will still be struggling with the rapid changes the coronavirus has wrought upon our way of life. People's anxiety will be further fueled by **concern for the health of loved ones**, or stress resulting from the impact of the pandemic on **jobs and livelihoods.**

Given the unprecedented events we are living through, the need for mental health support could not be clearer. That's why the government must **signpost the appropriate support services to every household**, and **adequately fund the charities** that provide those services.

Isolation is likely to have a grave impact on the mental health of millions across the country – the government must boost mental health support to help those hardest hit by social distancing <https://t.co/ywHkAY8WKY>

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [April 5, 2020](#)

Writing to the Secretary of Health, **Munira Wilson MP** and a cross-party group of Parliamentarians have expressed fears that government advice to stay at home will leave people “**worried about coronavirus, their jobs, housing**” and “**anxious about their family’s health and their own.**”

**Over 40 MPs from across the political spectrum** have signed the letter highlighting the “inextricable link” between mental and physical health and urging the Government to:

- **launch a publicity campaign** signposting the mental health support available during the coronavirus crisis.
- **send public health leaflets**, which include advice on looking after mental health and signposts to organisations that can offer mental health support during the crisis, to all homes.
- **increase the level of funding for mental health charities** offering support during the coronavirus crisis, **to reduce pressure on the NHS.**



The Mental Health Foundation and Campaigns at Young Minds have both supported the cross-party efforts.

**Mark Rowland, Chief Executive of the Mental Health Foundation, said:**

*“Supporting and protecting people’s mental health will be **critical for people to endure and recover from this pandemic.** Peer support*

*approaches and prominent advice should be **central** to the government's plan, with a **particular focus on reaching those most at risk.**"*

**Tom Madders, Director of Communications and Campaigns at Young Minds said:**

*"It is crucial that young people are able to access support at this time and know where to find **good quality information and resources** on how they can look after their mental health at home.*

*Now is the time for us all to work together and support those most at risk in our society.*

*The Government must fully recognise the growing mental health impact that COVID-19 will continue to have on children and young people, and ensure that those professionals and organisations providing mental health support **are well enough resourced and supported to do so.**"*

For more information about how you can take care of your mental health during the coronavirus outbreak, the mental health charity Mind **has some useful guidance** [here](#).



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