



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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27 April 2020

Dear Colleague,

COVID-19: International Workers' Memorial Day

You may already be aware of the request made by our trades union partners to participate in a minute's silence at 11:00 am on International Workers' Memorial Day (28 April 2020), in honour of our colleagues who have sadly lost their lives to COVID-19. We are writing further to that call to ask that all health and social care workplaces across Scotland, wherever possible, participate in observing that minute's silence. Further, I would be grateful if you can facilitate observance by using local systems to inform staff. Scottish Ministers, NHS and Scottish Government officials will be asked to take part.

COSLA President, Councillor Allison Evison, will lead COSLA's commemorations with representatives of the Local Government workforce and their employers.

The theme for this year's International Workers' Memorial Day is Coronavirus. As you will all be only too aware, the fight against this pandemic affects workers across the globe. Sadly, a number of our health and social care colleagues in Scotland have already succumbed to the virus. Our thoughts remain with the families and loved ones of each of those who have died. We are also aware of how acutely friends and workmates will be feeling their loss, and how important it is to be afforded an opportunity to engage in an act of collective remembrance, solemnly and in solidarity.

The fortitude and dedication demonstrated by key workers across all sectors throughout this pandemic has been truly inspirational. Furthermore, we continue to feel deeply humbled by the skill, compassion and care that is demonstrated daily by our health and social care staff across Scotland. This small act of remembrance is a respectful and poignant reminder of the great contribution made by those who are no longer with us, and of the continuing efforts of our key workers to keep the people of Scotland safe throughout this pandemic.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeane Freeman', written in a cursive style.

Jeane Freeman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Currie', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Stuart Currie