

Mike Hedges MS

Member of the Senedd for Swansea East



ANNUAL SENEDD REPORT 2023

Welsh Labour  Llafur Cymru



“MAKE UNIFORMS CHEAPER!”

I was thrilled to support the Welsh Labour Government’s announcement of new guidance to make school uniforms cheaper- including an end to compulsory school logos.

This guidance followed a public consultation on school uniform guidance where almost all respondents believed schools should offer uniform exchanges or recycling schemes. Purchasing expensive uniforms should not be a pressure which families have to face, especially during a cost-of-living crisis. I am confident that this guidance will help parents, carers and learners alike in Swansea East.

GAZA CEASEFIRE

I was very pleased to support the resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. The motion calling for a ‘ceasefire’, condemned the attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians, and the Israeli government’s “indiscriminate attacks on Gaza”. It was carried by 24 votes to 19 with members of the government abstaining. I condemn the terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas on the 7th of October and I call for all the hostages to be released unconditionally. It is time to bring an end to this terrible conflict which has taken the lives of innocents on both sides.



I SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH RARE DISEASES

Swansea East MS, Mike Hedges said ‘I was pleased to sponsor an event at the Senedd with the Cross-Party Rare Disease group and to visit with TOFS, who support children and their families who are born unable to swallow. Rare diseases day was first celebrated in 2008. It is as important now as it was in 2008. Unfortunately, the lived experience of those with rare conditions continues to be difficult which is why it is so important that we have a national action plan in Wales to support the implementation of the UK rare diseases.

It was good to meet with people who suffer from or support family members with these rare, serious, and debilitating conditions. We owe it to these people to ensure that they get the support they need and that it is available across Wales without the need to travel long distances. Whilst individually they are rare, hence their name, they collectively affect a lot of people, with one in 17 people being affected during their lifetime. Many rare conditions are lifelong and complex, often they are chronic and life-threatening.

As a result, people affected by rare conditions often need support and expertise from a wide range of healthcare professionals. This can mean having multiple appointments across different settings, and on different dates. Well co-ordinated care can make a real difference to people’s quality of life. I was pleased to meet with families who support people with rare diseases at an event in the Senedd. These people are true heroes and deserve the best support the Welsh Government can provide.



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

I was pleased to attend Show Racism the Red Card event at the Senedd. We all need to stand up to racism at every opportunity; there should be no space for racism in our communities and we all need to do everything we can to combat racism in our Society. Swansea should be a friendly and welcoming community to all people irrespective of where they come from. All people in our communities should be treated with respect and I am happy to support Stand Up to Racism.

I'M AGAINST TORY PLANS TO RESTRICT THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

I completely oppose the UK Conservative Government's latest assault on workers and trade unions, who are the legitimate voice of workers in the workplace, whether that be public or private sector. This pernicious legislation is an attempt by the UK Government to distract from the case that's being put by the trade unions in terms of public sector pay and terms and conditions, and it's an attempt to try to demonise workers in our public sector. It is a complete aboutturn from those commitments that the UK Conservative Government gave that, after COVID, we would look after our public service workers differently.

The Welsh Labour Government is committed to social partnership. The way to resolve industrial disputes is to get round the table and find a negotiated solution, that not only sustains the service, but supports the workforce who are vital for the service. The new legislation is the complete opposite way to go in terms of actually how we reach solutions to the current challenges that we face. The Welsh Labour Government totally opposes this legislation and will not be recommending consent. I and my colleagues in the Senedd will seek every lawful means that we have in terms of opposing it and its implementation.

Articles published on :
Nation Cymru
Evening Post
Welsh Fabians https://medium.com/@mikehedges_93307
Morning Star
Co-Op Party Pioneer

Pamphlets available on <https://www.mikehedges.org.uk> :
Co-Operative Housing
Manifesto for Welsh Labour parts 1, 2 & 3



2023 in numbers

Articles written	57
Oral Questions	73
Speeches	57
Casework	2898
Surgeries	69
Visits	184

Get in touch

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ADVICE SURGERIES

1st Friday of month Brynhyfrd Library 3-4 pm
2nd Friday of month Morryston Library 3-4 pm
3rd Friday of month Penlan Library 2-3 pm
4th Thursday of month StThomas Library 3-3.30pm
4th Friday of month Llansamlet Library 3-4 pm