

Early day motion 58

UN VOTE ON CHAGOS ISLANDS

Session: 2017-19

Date tabled: 26.06.2017

Primary sponsor: Grady, Patrick

Sponsors: Day, Martyn | Shannon, Jim | Saville Roberts, Liz | Hopkins, Kelvin | Stephens, Christopher

Total number of signatures: **25**

Brown, Alan	Cowan, Ronnie	Day, Martyn	Doughty, Stephen
Drew, David	Edwards, Jonathan	Gethins, Stephen	Godsiff, Roger
Grady, Patrick	Grant, Peter	Gray, Neil	Hendry, Drew
Hopkins, Kelvin	Law, Chris	Linden, David	Lucas, Caroline
MacNeil, Angus	McDonald, Stuart	Monaghan, Carol	O'Hara, Brendan
Saville Roberts, Liz	Shannon, Jim	Sheppard, Tommy	Stephens, Christopher
Thewliss, Alison			

That this House welcomes the adoption by the UN General Assembly of Resolution 71/292 which requests an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 including the consequences in international law for the resettlement of the Chagos Islanders; notes that the Chagos Archipelago was excised from Mauritius in 1965 prior to independence in 1968, notwithstanding UN Resolution 1514 of 1960 concerning the violation of territorial integrity of colonial countries prior to the independence, and Resolution 2066 of 1965 demanding the UK take no action which would dismember the territory of Mauritius and violate its territorial integrity; further notes that 94 UN member states supported Resolution 71/292 with 15 against, and 65 abstentions, including Canada and Switzerland, as well as 22 EU member states including France, Germany, Spain, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Estonia, Latvia, Greece and Finland; believes that this vote signifies a diplomatic failure for the Government, which finds itself increasingly isolated and with diminishing influence on the world stage; encourages the Government to resume bilateral discussions with Mauritius with a view to resolving the issues and also to respect any advisory opinion given by the ICJ; draws attention to the 1,500 Chagos Islanders, and their descendants, who were deported from the islands by the UK between 1968 and 1973 so that Diego Garcia could be used as a military base by the US; is appalled that after nearly 50 years this situation remains unresolved; and demands that the Government fulfil its humanitarian and human rights obligations and allow the Chagossians to return home.