



Rt Hon Liz Truss MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Via email

6 September 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

**Sexual harassment and workplace culture in Westminster**

Congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister.

We write as general secretaries of trade unions representing workers on the Parliamentary estate and throughout the Civil Service about our concerns over sexual harassment and workplace culture in Westminster.

There have been many reports of sexual assault and misconduct, bullying, and harassment, combined with a lack of leadership needed to change the culture. However, with a new Prime Minister and a new Parliament comes the opportunity to restore confidence that Parliament, and Westminster politics more broadly, is a safe place to work.

We urge you to grasp this opportunity to make a break with the past and show the leadership necessary to change the culture in Parliament, which saw serious allegations of sexual misconduct ignored when appointing ministers and whips. As our new Prime Minister, you now have the chance and the obligation to fundamentally correct the erosion of ethics, standards in public life and public respect for, and confidence in, those who lead them.

We already have mechanisms to deal with misconduct by politicians. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme provide an independent means of investigating and sanctioning alleged misconduct.

However, both the Commissioner and the Scheme can only operate effectively in a culture where MPs are not indulged and protected from the consequences of their misbehaviour with party political interest superseding all other considerations.

We believe the following actions are essential to restoring trust in the country's political leadership from both the public and those working within Parliament and government, and urge you to take them:

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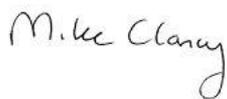
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- Work with the Speaker of the House of Commons and the leaders of all parties in Parliament to introduce a formal mechanism to prevent MPs accused of serious sexual misconduct from attending Parliament.
- Commit to restoring ethics and standards in public life by reconsidering your suggestion that you may not appoint an Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests to replace Lord Geidt.

Whether or not we agree on every issue, we believe we can find common cause on changing the culture of Westminster. Our unions are not affiliated to any political party, and this issue is not limited to any one party, but it does require leadership from the Prime Minister. We are willing to meet and to work with anyone committed to rooting out this culture of impunity.

We will be sharing this letter with our members and await your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Clancy  
General Secretary  
Prospect union



Dave Penman  
General Secretary  
FDA