

**PE1841/MM**

Elaine Deehan submission of 14 March 2021

I wish to support the petition by Natasha Hamilton PEO1841 Allow a designated visitor into Care Homes.

I feel strongly that the management of closing care homes to relatives during this pandemic has been a Human Rights disaster, with residents effectively locked away for a year. Care Home managers have been ignoring Scottish Government guidelines and there are huge differences nationwide. Residents have no voice. Contact with families completely stopped. This puts residents at risk of abuse. Visits where allowed have had a staff member in attendance thereby no privacy, so if there are any issues then the resident is unable to voice them.

There has been little compassion for those residents at the end of life who have died with no family member by their side, or for the family who were denied access.

We cannot as a society let this happen again to our most vulnerable. The word 'care' seems to have gone from our homes.