

Press Release

The Apostleship of the Sea



House of Commons shows its support for Apostleship of the Sea by signing an Early Day Motion in support of Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday 2008 falls on July 13th; this is the day when we remember all those who live and work at sea. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness for merchant seafarers and the conditions they face at sea.

Apostleship of the Sea and the House of Commons together acknowledge that the inherent problems for many thousands of merchant seafarers consist of dangerous working conditions, low pay, poor morale, sickness, and separation from family. Apostleship of the Sea works to combat these problems; it is the frontline service for the care of seafarers visiting our shores. It provides practical care to seafarers and works to educate the public and statutory bodies on the issues facing seafarers on a daily basis. It depends wholly on voluntary contributions to continue its vital work.

The House of Commons has congratulated the Apostleship of the Sea on its work for the welfare and rights of all seafarers. They urge all businesses which import and export goods by sea to be responsible corporate citizens and encourage their shipping providers to adopt an acceptable minimum level of care for their seafaring employees as advised by the Maritime Labour Convention 2006.

The EDM can be viewed on the House of Commons website at:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=36237&SESSION=891>

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Further information for Editors

The Apostleship of the Sea, AOS, is a maritime welfare charity, providing practical and pastoral support to seafarers, regardless of race, colour or creed (if any).

Ninety percent of world trade is carried by ship, and some 100,000 seafarers visit British ports each year. They are commonly away from home for nine to 12 months at a time, suffering loneliness, depression and even exploitation. They also have to work in gruelling and often dangerous conditions. AOS chaplains and ship visitors welcome seafarers to our shores. They recognise them as brothers with an intrinsic human dignity which can be overlooked in the modern globalised maritime industry. For more information visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

For further information about the work and vision of AOS please contact Sheila Bailey Director of Fundraising and Communications Tel: 0771 286 4747
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