

Desecration of War Memorials Bill

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TO

Amend the law to make provision about damage to war memorials; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Interpretation

In this Act—

“war memorial” means any physical object created, erected or installed to commemorate those involved in or affected by a conflict or war, including civilians and animals;

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“desecrates” means an act of disrespect including spitting, urination or defecation.

2 Amendments to the Criminal Damage Act 1971

(1) After section 1(1) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 there is inserted—

“(1A) A person who without lawful excuse destroys, damages or desecrates a war memorial shall be guilty of an offence.”.

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(2) After section 4(1) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 there is inserted—

“(1A) A person guilty of an offence under section 1(1A) is liable—

(a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale, or to both,

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(b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or to a fine, or to both.”.

3 Short title, commencement and extent

(1) This Act may be cited as the Desecration of War Memorials Act 2010.

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- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales.

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To amend the law to make provision about damage to war memorials; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Mr David Burrowes,
Shona McIsaac, Robert Key, Jim Sheridan,
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Mr Charles Walker, Mike Penning,
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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 3 February 2010.*

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The Stationery Office Limited
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