



for  
Coastal  
Communities

## World Drowning Prevention Day Event

Room M, Portcullis House

Host - Sally-Ann Hart MP

Tuesday 11 July 11:00-13:00

Co-secretariat representative: Beccy MacDonald-Lofts, LGA Coastal SIG

**Purpose:** Brief Members of Parliament ahead of 25<sup>th</sup> July, World Drowning Prevention Day 2023, to provide information relevant to the prevention of drowning across the UK.

The event was opened and chaired by Sally-Ann Hart MP, who gave a passionate opening to the event, openly discussing how drowning has affected her role and community.



### Dr David Meddings, World Health Organisation

Dr Meddings presented on the global drowning burden highlighting the big picture drowning and the concern that most drownings occur in more deprived communities across the world. Dr Meddings outlined the ways to approach drowning prevention and recent milestones including the UN Resolution on Drowning Prevention which established the date for international drowning awareness on 25<sup>th</sup> July. He also discussed future work towards the first World Health Organisation global status report on drowning prevention.



Jonathan Passmore, World Health Organisation

Jonathan provided a European context including the specific regional challenges including drownings through migration by sea and the prevention of older male drownings that are linked to water recreation. Jonathan finished his presentation with a tribute to Tom Jones, who sadly lost his life to drowning in 2018 to provide context as to why drownings need to be addressed.



## Dawn Whittaker, Chair, National Water Safety Forum

Dawn explained the challenges around drowning prevention in the UK and the approaches, including campaigns, being delivered by the National Water Safety Forum and partners including #RespectTheWater and #FloatToLive. Dawn ended her presentation with a call to action, asking MPs and attendees to 'do one thing' on World Drowning Prevention Day to support awareness and change.



## Brogan and Megan Griffiths

Attendees heard from the inspirational sisters of Haydn Griffiths, who lost his life to drowning in July 2022, despite being an extremely experienced water user. The sisters spoke about the loss of their brother and their determination to raise awareness around drowning prevention so that his legacy can help protect others.





Members of Parliament were invited to discuss drowning prevention with representatives from the WHO, NWSF, RoSPAA, Black Swimming Association and RNLI, and pledge their support for 25 July 2023.



Links:

<https://nationalwatersafety.org.uk/drowningpreventionday>

<https://respectthewater.com/>

<https://www.rospa.com/leisure-water-safety/Water>

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/drowning>

**ROSPA**

accidents don't have to happen



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