

Cross party plea for government funding for Edinburgh's Hindu Diwali festival

✘ All party leaders in the Scottish Parliament along with some of the Edinburgh and Lothian MSPs have written to the First Minister asking that she finds the money to support an important cultural festival in Edinburgh this November.

Ruth Davidson, Leader of the Scottish Conservatives, Kezia Dugdale leader of the Scottish Labour Party and Willie Rennie Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats were joined by other MSPs in signing the letter to Ms Sturgeon asking that she considers a request for £35,000 for the festival.

If no monies are forthcoming then the festival will not proceed, despite the fact that there is a UK government funded equivalent in Trafalgar Square.

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP for Edinburgh Western said: "The Diwali festival has the potential to light Edinburgh up in a truly multicultural celebration. The Scottish Government should be doing more to support festivals like this to help make all communities across Scotland become beacons of multicultural celebration."

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