



IT seems grossly unfair that pregnant women face a postcode lottery over whether a loved one can join them at baby scans.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde health board has banned partners from attending any appointments over and above the usual 12 and 20-week dates.

The reason given is to reduce the number of people in hospital waiting areas to aid social distancing.

Yet relatives are still allowed to join expectant mothers at the doctors' meetings that follow these scans.

It makes little sense.

And why is it OK for a mum-to-be in Edinburgh to be supported, yet not so in Glasgow?



Questions . . . Lennon

NHS rule just does not scan

Baby scans are emotional occasions. They are often joyous but can also be a source of great anxiety, particularly if there are concerns for the mum or baby's health. As one woman tells The Scottish Sun on Sunday today: "You have that worry they're going to turn round and tell you something is wrong and you've got no

one there to support you."

It's a point backed by Labour's Monica Lennon – who rightly insists no one should be disadvantaged.

The Scottish Government say its guidance is "clear" that partners should be allowed into scan appointments.

And they insist all health boards should be working towards that goal.

Surely it is ministers' jobs to ensure this is followed through, or many more families will be adversely affected.

Pregnant women surely have the right to be supported by a loved one — no matter where they live.

Derby day with a twist

THE first Old Firm derby of the year passed with the usual passion on the pitch — but some very different scenes off it.

Scotland was cut in two as fans in the central belt had to watch the match indoors, while supporters elsewhere took in the action on beer garden TV screens.

Nicola Sturgeon last week pleaded with those in the five health board areas worst hit by Covid to stay home.

Glasgow's bars did remain shut, with the surrounding streets free of the mayhem often associated with this fixture.

In pubs outside restricted areas, many enjoyed the match responsibly.

Others, however, decided to ignore the First Minister and travelled to England to catch the action in bars there.

And there were disappointing scenes before kick-off as around 50 fans set off fireworks outside Parkhead.

Later, supporters flocked to Ibrox to congratulate their heroes on the 2-0 win.

Take a deep breath, 2020's biggest club game so far is over. Time will tell how the result went in the fight against Covid.

PROF ON STATUE DEBATE

Slave shame must stay in our history

Says **SIR GEOFF PALMER**

We have the morality to start looking at it

Historic monuments that could also change



THOMAS CARLYLE

Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow
Academic was a controversial figure because of an essay in which he argued against the end of slavery.



JOHN HOPE

Dundas House, Edinburgh
Fourth Earl of Hopetoun was Army officer who helped stop a slave revolution in the West Indies.



JOHN MOORE

George Square, Glasgow
General who helped stop a slave revolt on St Lucia after they were freed by the French governor in 1795.



GEORGE KINLOCH

Albert Square, Dundee
The 'Radical Laird' — a politician who inherited a slave plantation in Jamaica after his father died.

SIR Geoff Palmer insists statues of Scots slave traders must STAY — as knocking them down would be getting rid of black history.

A BBC documentary follows the human rights activist's successful bid to have a plaque added to the controversial statue of Henry Dundas in Edinburgh which reflects his life accurately.

Debate has raged after a monument for slave merchant politician Edward Colston was torn down and dumped in Bristol harbour during June protests related to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Sir Geoff, 80 — who became Scotland's first black professor in 1989 — is against such action and hopes plaques can shine a light on Scotland's shameful slavery past.

He says: "If you take these statues down — what a lot of people don't realise — this is taking down black history."

"Some activists may not like it but what I say to them is, the Colston statue has come down but what have you got from it?"

"My view is that the next statue that comes down should be racism. Until we take that down, nothing should be touched."

"There can be a plaque explaining what the individual did and also what aspects of our history it represents because a statue is in the context of its history."

"We don't want people going around taking down statues."

"I'm a descendant of slaves and therefore I want a truthful history rather than knocking a statue down and then forgetting about it."

Geoff, who lives in Penicuik, Midlothian, reckons Scotland is actually leading the way in addressing its complicated history of slavery.

As well as Edinburgh City Council updating the plaque of the Henry Dundas statue outlining his role in delaying the abolishment of slavery, Geoff — Professor Emeritus in the School of Life Sciences at Heriot-Watt University — says other councils are looking at what they can do.

Last year the University of Glasgow unveiled a plaque to mark the fact that its base was built on the site of Gilmorehill House, the property of a notorious 18th Century slave owner.

Meanwhile, just days ago, Geoff was announced as the chair of a new independent steering group which will recommend how museum collections can



By **COLAN LAMONT**
Features writer

properly portray the country's colonial and slavery history.

The academic hopes the group — sponsored by the Scottish Government and coordinated by Museums Galleries Scotland — is the start of an effort to integrate the country's chequered past into education.

He says: "When I speak to the people all over Scotland in general over the last 10 to 15 years, giving my lectures on this history, the consistent response has been, 'Why hasn't anyone told us this before?'"

"The world is watching us in Scotland and we're ahead."

"We may have been involved in this slavery but we have the morality to start looking at it and saying, this has to be done and it has to be done truthfully and we want to put it into the school curriculum so children can be aware of it. We cannot change the past but we can change the consequences, such as racism, for the better."

"The Scottish public is big enough to take their history. The way historians have treated them in the past is that they were not."

"To make the most significant advances, the government has set up this steering group to look at museums and galleries and they've asked a descendant of slaves to chair it."

●Scotland, Slavery And Statues airs on Tuesday on BBC Scotland at 10pm.

The world is watching us in Scotland

HENRY DUNDAS

THE MP for Midlothian used his influence as Home Secretary to frustrate the abolition of slavery

LESSON . . . Sir Geoff wants plaques to explain the past

