



1 October 2014

Daily Express

RE: *Ann Widdecombe: Why we need a Good Samaritan law here* (page 13)

Sir,

Legislating to force people to act as Good Samaritans, as suggested by Ms Widdecome, is completely unnecessary.

The Compensation Act came into force in 2006 in an attempt to change perceptions of what the law expects of “Good Samaritans”. Now the Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill is going through Parliament with the same aim. In fact, the courts have always taken an individual’s intentions into account when deciding if someone has caused injury by acting negligently.

Successive Governments have repeatedly failed to dissolve myths about our compensation system through legislation.

Myths about the so-called “compensation culture” and what the law expects of citizens can only be dispelled by education – not legislation.

Deborah Evans

Chief executive of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)