

Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Report—April and May 2016

EU Referendum

Over the last few decades there's been a transformation in women's lives, with women going out to work as well as caring for children and elderly.

Regarding ourselves as equal citizens whose contribution in the world outside the home is important and should not be undervalued. Through those decades the EU has been a friend to women in this country. As long as the Tories are in power, we can't rely on the Government to stand up for and maintain women's rights. We need the protection that the EU provides. I don't believe that Boris Johnson, Nigel Farage and Michael Gove will actively protect women's rights.

**BRITAIN
STRONGER
IN EUROPE**

My decision to vote to remain is based on a whole range of issues: Jobs and investment, UK influence in Europe, UK influence through the EU in the rest of the world, the EU as a body of countries committed to human rights. And my general belief that it's best to look forward and outward rather than backward and inward - especially in a globalised world. Opting out for a quiet life was never a way to make progress on anything. And outside the EU it wouldn't be a quiet life but one of frustration and ineffectiveness. A quick adrenalin boost of "going it alone" followed by long endurance of problems and marginalisation leaving us as a weaker, poorer country.

You can read my speech for Britain Stronger in Europe and the report on why the EU is a friend of women at work [here](#).

London turns Red as Sadiq Khan and Florence Eshalomi elected



It's over a week now, but I'm still buzzing that Sadiq Khan is our new mayor of London and that Florence Eshalomi has been elected to represent Lambeth and Southwark on the GLA. It means it's a really hopeful time for London. We can look forward to more homes being built and sold or rented at a price people can afford. I shall be supporting our Southwark council leader Peter John as he seeks the backing of the Mayor to build more council and affordable homes.

Sadiq's promised to cap spiraling transport fares. It's going to be a time for new plans and new ideas. Whether it's making our air cleaner or our streets safer, or helping

new businesses start up and tackling the inequality which still scars London, Sadiq has said he'll be a Mayor who listens and innovates. And it's an incredibly proud time for London.

We've elected as our new Mayor a man who was brought up on a Tooting council estate, whose parents emigrated here from Pakistan - his father to work on the buses and his mother to work as a seamstress. He went to University and set up his own legal firm. And he's the first Muslim to be elected to lead our great City - the first of any city in Europe.



Solomon's Passage—Wandle Housing

Just 3 weeks ago, the 85 families who live in Solomon's Passage, overlooking Peckham Rye, heard the devastating news that they'll all have to leave their homes because of fundamental defects in the blocks built only 6 years ago. 2 blocks will have to be refurbished and the residents will have to move out. And 2 blocks are so badly built they'll have to be demolished. Families face months of uncertainty. I'm meeting the residents of the estate and with Wandle Housing Association, who built the blocks. At the end of all this lessons will have to be learnt about how it all went so wrong. But for now, the imperative for Wandle is to support their residents to move forward from the horrible, forced and unexpected move. Children may have to be moved from their schools and bonds between neighbours broken. As families face this disruption, Wandle will have to do everything they can to protect them from this unprecedented housing and construction failure.

These are just some of my activities. For further information about my work in the constituency please see my website www.harrietharman.org

Funding for Southwark Schools

The Tories proposed education reforms and changes to the National Funding Formula mean that Southwark schools could lose up to 20% of funding by 2020. It will be impossible to maintain let alone improve standards with such a reduction in funding, especially when Southwark schools are dealing with growing demands.

Schools in boroughs that are not adequately funded should be levelled up. Levelling down schools is not justified or fair and would put school performance at risk. In London, schools spend a high proportion of the budget on staffing. Making any further savings would undermine schools performance and the quality of education children receive.

In the House of Commons on 4th May, I made it clear there should be no Government funding cuts to Southwark schools.

You can read the full debate [here](#).

Drones Report

In September, the Government announced that they had killed suspected terrorist Reyaad Khan in a targeted drone strike. The Joint Committee on Human Rights, which I Chair, published our report on the Government's policy on the use of drones for targeted killing on 10th May following our inquiry. There must be clear laws and proper accountability.

You can read the report [here](#).

Challenging the Government not to quit ECHR

Following the Home Secretary, Rt Hon Theresa May MP, saying that the UK should leave the European Convention on Human Rights, I challenged the Attorney General (Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP) that the Government should stick with the convention. The Government must support our human rights and set an example for other countries where people are struggling for human rights and leaving the ECHR would send the wrong message.

You can read my intervention [here](#).

Mayor Making

On 14th May, Cllr Kath Whittam was elected Mayor and Cllr Charlie Smith Deputy Mayor. Mayor Whittam chose two charities to benefit from her charity appeal: The National Autistic Society and Surrey Docks Farm. Congratulations to all who were honoured at Southwark Cathedral and especially to Mayor Whittam.



**MY ADVICE SURGERIES ARE AT
Walworth Methodist Church 'Clubland'
54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EW**

Surgery Dates in June

- Tuesday 7th at 5pm
- Friday 24th at 9am



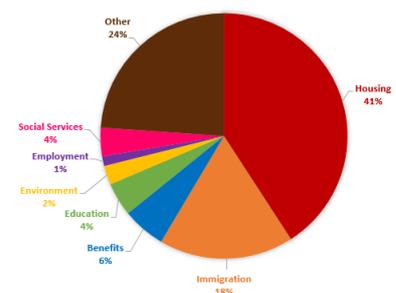
Getting to Clubland: Bus Routes: 468, 148, 171, 45, 68, 176, 12

Casework Update

In April:

- Action on 357 cases
- Including 159 new cases
- 2 advice surgeries
- Attended by 74 people
- Average reply time: 10 working days

BREAKDOWN OF CASEWORK ISSUES - APRIL 2016



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