



Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Monthly Report—September/October 2016

Dear Members of Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party,

The Labour leadership contest has concluded with Jeremy Corbyn re-elected. He's now appointed a new Front Bench team and a big responsibility falls on him to inspire and unite the party and to inspire the public with the confidence that we are a credible Opposition and future government. I will be working particularly closely with Sarah Champion, our new Shadow Minister for Women and Equality and will be playing an active part in the Women's PLP which is now chaired by Jess Philips MP

Our local membership has now increased to 3,511. The party is continuing our regular ward door-knocking sessions and I hope all of you who are new members will, as well as attending the branch and all member meetings, feel welcome to come out campaigning with us.

The draft proposal for the new parliamentary boundaries has been published. This is a Tory gerrymandering exercise based on an electoral register from which about 3m people are missing. Those missing from the register are more likely to be young, renting, from inner cities and black. The register is discrimination at the heart of our democracy. The new boundaries would see Camberwell and Peckham turn into Camberwell & Vauxhall Bridge, we would lose South Camberwell, The Lane, Nunhead and Peckham Rye wards, gain Prince's & Vassall ward and regain Newington Ward from Bermondsey. The London Labour Party is co-ordinating the response to the consultation.

We are now seriously behind in the opinion polls. Even though we take them with a pinch of salt, we cannot but be concerned that we are 17% behind the Tories. All our previous experience tells us, particularly from the 1980s, that we can get into government if we are united and have a policy programme and leadership which connects with and inspires not only our members and the people in our traditional heartlands but also in the marginal Tory seats we need to win. That means we must understand people's concerns about us and address them. Otherwise we are consigned to Opposition and will betray the people who need a Labour Government. We lost 4 elections before we got into government in 1997. We've already lost 2 and this country becomes more unfair and unequal with every year the Tories are in Government.

I hope to see you at forthcoming ward meetings and campaign sessions.

***Advance Notice ***

My memoirs come out in February next year. I'd like to thank the local party members who've sat down with me to remind me of our work in the party over the 1980s and 90s.

10 Point Plan for Brexit—The new Prime Minister must get a grip on Brexit

Most people in Southwark voted to "Remain" and I'm deeply disappointed that we will be leaving the EU But as "Leave" won, the government must ensure that we suffer as little as possible by leaving.

*The government must say when they will be putting the weekly sum of £350m into the NHS they promised as part of a "Brexit dividend". This was written on their "Leave" Campaign Bus but we've heard nothing of it since the vote.

*The government must guarantee areas who've been promised EU funds for infrastructure like roads and bridges that they will not lose the money when we leave the EU but they'll get it from our government.

*The government must commit to matching rights that employees get in the EU. Britain's workers can't slip behind on issues like equal pay and maternity rights.

*They must ensure we stay in the single market so our companies exporting to EU countries don't have to pay tariffs which will make their goods more expensive.

*They must be ready to support industries whose exports are threatened if we are thrown out of the single market and 10% tariffs imposed on all we sell into the EU We must not lose vital investment such as Nissan in the North East, because we've left the EU

*They must tell the many EU nationals who live in this country, some who've lived, worked and brought up their families that they will not be kicked out.

*On leaving the EU we'll have to negotiate new trade agreements with every country in the world we want to trade with to replace the trade agreements with countries like China and Cambodia, that we have by virtue of our membership of the EU. All EU trade deals require the countries we trade with to protect minimum human rights standards; to outlaw child labour and forced labour and to protect the right to join trade unions. When we negotiate new trade deals for ourselves with countries we wish to trade with we must ensure that those human rights clauses are included. We must not become the weak link in the quest to improve human rights around the world.

*The government must publish every 3 months the increase in the number of civil servants who have been employed on the Brexit negotiations, and their pay bill. Going it alone outside the EU means that instead of sharing work on treaty negotiations, we'll have to do them ourselves which will involve thousands more civil servants costing hundreds of millions of pounds. It is likely the £350m a week will go on lawyers and consultants negotiating Brexit rather than our NHS.

*The PM must take a personal grip on this. She can't leave it to her warring ministers.

*And she must let parliament know of and have a right to vote on the terms which she's trying to negotiate with the EU.

George Arthur Roberts 1890 –1970

It was a privilege to attend the blue plaque unveiling and honour the life of radical, hero, civil rights activist George Arthur Roberts 1890-1970. Born in Trinidad in 1890, George Arthur Roberts served in the First World War and went on to become a fire-fighter throughout the Blitz and rest of the Second World War. In 1944 he was awarded the British Empire Medal "for general duties at New Cross Fire Station" and for his part as a founder and pioneer of the Discussion and Education groups of the fire service. He was wounded first at the Battle of Loos, and then in the Battle of the Somme. After the war he settled in London firstly living in Peckham and then Camberwell where George and his family lived for almost 50 years. A former electrical engineer, in 1939 George completed



his training with the fire service and in 1943 became a section leader.

In 1931, George was one of the founder members of the League of Coloured Peoples, one of the first organisations to take care of the needs of Britain's black community.

Solomon's Passage—Wandle Housing

I'm continuing my work on behalf of the residents of Solomon's passage on Peckham Rye who will all have to move because of disastrous building faults. I'm keeping pressure on Wandle Housing Association to give leaseholders a fair valuation when they're buying them out, give certainty to the tenants and communicate more promptly and openly with the residents,. People in Solomon's Passage thought they'd found their dream homes only to find it's turned into a nightmare.



Campaigning in Livesey

Thanks to councillors Situ and Livingstone and branch organiser Lorin for campaigning in the pouring rain on Ilderton Rd in Livesey Ward. It's vital that Labour is out and about knocking on peoples' doors, showing an interest in their lives, listening to their concerns and picking up issues which need to be acted on.

No-one says to us "We only see you at election time"!

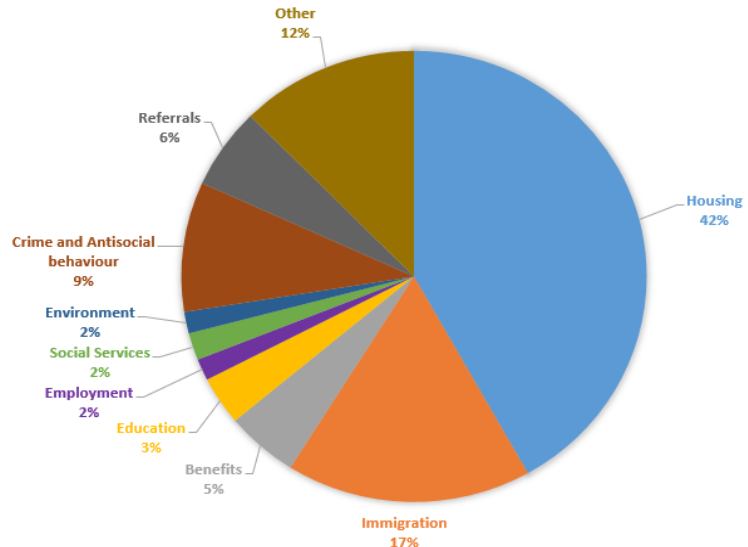


Casework Update

In August & September :

- Action on **481** cases
- Including **249** new cases
- Average reply time: 10 working days

CASEWORK BREAKDOWN: AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2016



National Labour Women's Conference—Liverpool

1,300 women gathered at National Labour Women's Conference in Liverpool. In my speech I said that only a Labour government pushes for advances in women's lives. The Tories never have and never will fight for equality. Theresa May, when Shadow Minister for Women, voted against our Equality Act 2010, sided with Tory men against our argument for more women MPs and has been closing children's centres. So though she's a woman, she's no "sister". As Labour women, and with more women MPs than all the other parties put together, it is down to us to speak for women in this country. And to ensure that in the future Labour doesn't have an all-male leadership team.

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