#WomenMPsoftheWorld Conference

Women MPs from 100 countries & 5 continents gathered in the historic chamber of the House of Commons on Thursday 8th November to discuss a wide range of issues, including how to end violence against women and girls and how women MPs can be empowered as recent arrivals in politics. Though we come from very different countries, our goals are the same. Women are the new force for change in global politics. Thanks to all local members & Southwark councillors who came to watch! I’m writing a report of the day and will send it to you shortly.

Brandon Tenants

I’ve asked Camberwell School of Art to work with the Brandon tenants’ sewing class so that CSA give them access to their brilliant facilities and provide them with support and so that the CSA students/teachers can learn from the diverse textile cultures that are in the Brandon sewing group. The class runs in the community hall—already 10 women attend weekly and 10 are on the waiting list.

Dulwich Hamlet Football Club returns to Champion Hill!

Delighted that DHFC can return to their home ground in Champion Hill where they are such an important part of the local community. Thanks to former Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP for hosting our meeting on 23rd October where the agreement between Southwark Council, Meadow & DHFC was reached & to Helen Hayes MP for all her work to save the club.

Speaker’s lecture—Women and British Politics: Where next?

It was an honour to give the Speaker’s Lecture in the State Rooms in Parliament on 22nd October. The past 100 years have seen nothing less than a transformation in women’s legal rights, in our role in the home, in the world of work and in politics. We celebrate the progress that has been made but there is still much work to be done. Read my speech here.

Brexit Concerns

There’s a major concern in Camberwell & Peckham about Brexit. Not least at King’s College Hospital. When I visited on 4th November I discussed with the Chair & Chief Executive how EU citizens play a valuable role in providing their all important health services. Brexit’s a big worry for my constituents - nearly 1000 have written to me about jobs, the economy, employment rights, travel, and the environment. I share these concerns. There will be major votes in the House of Commons on this before Christmas.

John Ruskin Primary School Visit

Pleased to visit John Ruskin Primary School on 31st October. Very good discussion with the children - I met many future MPs, lawyers & armed services personnel! And good meeting with parents & carers in the playground. Congratulations to Headteacher Linda Dickinson and the entire staff team for achieving an “outstanding” from OFSTED this week. It is clearly very well deserved and the school is a great asset to the area.

For further information about my work in the constituency please see my website www.harrietharman.org
Mountview Academy is open!

Delighted to visit students, Chair Vikki Heywood, Artistic Director, Stephen Jameson and Executive Director, Sarah Preece at the newly opened Mountview Theatre Academy on 13th November. Welcome to Peckham! Major arrival for local people!

Southwork Remembers

Marking 100 years since the end of WW1 and remembering those who lost their lives, with Council Leader Peter John, Florence Eshalomi AM & Seb Dance MP & many others at St Saviour’s War Memorial on 11th November.

Action to address Royal Mail Disruption

A number of constituents have contacted me experiencing delays receiving their post and parcels and facing long queues to collect items following Royal Mail’s decision to close the East Dulwich sorting office and relocate to Highshore Road sorting office in Peckham.

I have written to the Chief Executive of Royal Mail to raise local people’s concerns and to ask what action they are taking to urgently address these delays.

View my letter here.

Policy issues update

In October 1,349 Camberwell & Peckham residents wrote to me about policy issues. The top 3 concerns raised were:

1. Back a People’s Vote on the Prime Minister’s Brexit agreement.
2. Support a tax rise in the Budget to fund our NHS.
3. Call on Government to halt the disastrous rollout of Universal Credit.

Read my position on these issues and more on the ‘Policy Issues’ & Letters to Ministers pages on my website.

Helping constituents with their problems

A Peckham Rye resident contacted me as her teenage son, who has chronic anxiety and depression had been out school for 2 years and his transition back into school was delayed as the council had not found a suitable placement. Following my intervention he is now attending an independent performing arts school and is due to take 4 GCSEs this year.

A single mother with renal failure living in a hostel with her two young children contacted me as her living situation was unsuitable for someone with health problems. She has now moved into a newly built flat in Camberwell and in the future, if she doesn’t get the transplant she is waiting for, she will be able to get home dialysis.

A foster parent from Camberwell contacted me as he was have difficulty obtaining identity documents for his Portuguese foster daughters from their Embassy in time for their family holiday. I wrote to the Portuguese Ambassador to the UK. The ID cards were ready for collection the next day and they were able to catch their flight the day after.

A grandmother from Peckham who lived with her daughter and grandson contacted me as she was due to move into sheltered accommodation but she wanted her daughter to succeed to the tenancy to prevent her and her grandson from becoming homeless. I wrote to Notting Hill Housing Association and they offered my constituent’s daughter a trial one-year tenancy.