

Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP
Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham
Mother of the House of Commons

Coronavirus Crisis Parliamentary Report 11

18th February 2021



CORONAVIRUS
STAY HOME
SAVE LIVES



You must stay at home, if you have
to leave for essential reasons remember:



HANDS FACE SPACE

Find out more at gov.uk/coronavirus

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES



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This is my eleventh report during the COVID crisis in which I

- share with you how I'm going about my work as MP during this coronavirus crisis,
- hear from you if you agree with how I'm approaching things and
- what further issues you think I should be addressing.

I, and my office team, continue to help constituents and to raise issues with the government or with agencies if they do not appear to have them on their agenda. Where they are aware of problems but appear to be taking too long to solve them I am pressuring government to act more speedily.

I continue to support the public health guidance issued by Public Health England.

Haniel Harman

It takes a team to care for an older person in residential care: dedicated staff in the home and loving family visiting.



It's time we changed the law to guarantee that.

February 2021

For many families, the move of a relative into residential care is the cause of great anguish. Even when it's obvious that a young adult with autism or learning difficulties needs to move out of the family home, or when it's clear that an older person can no longer manage in their own home, it can still leave the family with regrets that they've had to move out and worry as to whether their relative is in the place that's genuinely best for them.

As they worry, relatives reassure themselves that at least they can visit regularly. To show that those bonds of family still matter and provide the link to home. But when, at the start of the pandemic last year, older people with Covid were discharged from hospitals into care homes at the start of the pandemic, a dreadful death toll began in residential care. And figures have now emerged that show that people with disabilities have been far more likely to die of Covid.

As care homes locked down hard to tackle Covid, they banned family visits in an understandable response to the health threat to residents. But this has had a terrible impact on residents and their relatives. As the lockdown was eased in the summer and testing became more widespread, some homes made great efforts to resume visits. Gazebos were put up to enable visits outside where it's safer and family were invited to come and see their relatives through a window. But in many homes the blanket ban on relatives persisted.

It's shone a spotlight on just how much families matter to a relative in residential care, both to the relative and to the visitor. Relatives of older care home residents know their visits are the precious connection with memories which will otherwise fade

and provide vital stimulation which helps slow the advance of dementia. Families worry that if visits are denied for too long, by the time they get to see their relative it will be too late and they will no longer recognise them. Those unique threads to the past will have been broken and isolation deepened.

Family visits are also important reassurance about care standards. No one looks more closely to see if nails are cut, hair is brushed and there are no unexplained bruises.

Parents of a young person in residential care are desperate to ensure that their son or daughter knows they are still loved and valued as a member of the family. Not being able to see parents can cause a young person distress and anguish and mean their problems deteriorate.

Some homes have restored visits safely but it needs to be all care homes, not just some. By law, everyone has the right to family life is enshrined in law and a ban, where it is not even considered whether a visit can be allowed safely, breaches the Human Rights Act.

Some other countries are tackling this better, like Canada, where the law guarantees visits for a relative who is the "designated care-giver", provided they test negative before each visit.

It takes a team to care for an older person in residential care: dedicated staff in the home and loving family visiting. It's time we changed the law to guarantee that.

Parliament's Human Rights Committee, which I chair, has drafted Regulations which could be put into law in just a couple of days. We've presented these to the Health Secretary and urged him to bring them into the House of Commons. For those in residential care, there's no time to wait.

The Joint Committee on Human Rights have written to Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and Lucy Frazer, Prisons Minister, on the impact of long lockdown to those in care homes, hospitals and prisons.

In January the Joint Committee on Human Rights heard from witnesses whose right to a family life (Article 8 ECHR) had been personally affected by the long lockdown in these settings.

The Committee heard how families had been separated and the immense difficulties that this has had on both those within these settings and their loved ones.



Harriet Harman  @HarrietHarman

Important, this from @EHRC. You don't forfeit your human rights when you go into residential care. You still have rights incl right to family life. Blanket visit bans are cruel and govt must stop them now!

 EHRC @EHRC · 03/02/2021

MPs have called on ministers to legislate against blanket bans on care home visits in England.

Everyone has the right to a family life and we...



UK Parliament Human Rights Committee  @HumanRigh... · Feb 3

Following our recent evidence session on the impact of long lockdown on the human rights of those in care homes, hospitals and prisons we have written to relevant ministers pressing for immediate action.

Read the letters here  committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/h...

@HarrietHarman



Ministers pressed on rights of those in care homes, hospitals and prison... The Joint Committee on Human Rights have written to Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and Lucy Frazer, Prisons ... committees.parliament.uk

17 112 117

I wrote as Chair of the Committee pressing for immediate action.

- Read the letter: [to Secretary of State for Health and Social Care](#)
- Read the letter: [to Prisons Minister](#)

New Regulations drafted to end the blanket ban on family visits in residential care homes

As tens of thousands of fragile older and disabled people in residential care are prevented from being visited by their closest relative, the Joint Committee on Human Rights have drafted a new law which would end the blanket bans of relative's visits.

It would also require residential care homes to allow visits unless, after individualised assessment, a face-to-face visit is not possible for safety reasons.

Relatives remain an essential part of care for so many older and disabled people in care homes. It helps to keep their memories alive, it keeps them in touch with the world outside the home, and it reassures them of their continued place in the family and of the love of their family.

Blanket bans are in breach of the legal right to family life. The Government has issued guidance saying visits should resume and be individually assessed, but that needs to be enforced by law to make sure it happens in all homes.

The Joint Committee on Human Rights has drafted new regulations which they have asked the Secretary of State to put into law right away. Click image to review them.



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2021 No. xxxx

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ENGLAND
SOCIAL CARE, ENGLAND
PUBLIC HEALTH, ENGLAND

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities)
(Amendment) Regulations 2021

Made xx February 2021

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 8, 20(1) to (5A), 35, 86(2) and (4), 87(1) and (2) and 161(3) and (4) of the Health and Social Care Act 2008⁽¹⁾.

In accordance with section 20(8) of that Act, the Secretary of State has consulted such persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

A draft of these Regulations was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 162(3) of the Health and Social Care Act 2008, and was approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

(2) These Regulations come into force on the day after the day on which these Regulations are made.

Amendment of Regulation 9

2.—(1) Regulation 9 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 is amended as follows.

(2) After Regulation 9, paragraph (3), sub-paragraph (i), insert —

¹ 2008 c. 14. Section 20 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) was amended by section 81 of the Care Act 2014 (c. 23). Section 161(3) of the 2008 Act was amended by section 29(4) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c. 7).

"(j) facilitating face to face contact between the service user and persons significant to the service user so as to meet the service user's needs and preferences, having particular regard to their emotional and psychological needs;

(k) where the registered person determines following an individualised risk assessment that unrestricted face to face contact between significant persons and the service user is not possible, facilitating face to face contact with the significant person or persons whom the registered person reasonably believes best meets the needs and preferences of the service user;

(l) where the registered person determines following an individualised risk assessment that no face to face contact between any significant persons and the service user is possible, facilitating contact with significant persons in such other ways as best meets the needs and preferences of the service user and is in accordance with the individualised risk assessment."

(4) After Regulation 9, paragraph (8), insert —

"(7) In this regulation —

"face to face contact" means contact without fixed physical barriers between the service user and the significant person, but includes contact where the service user and/or relevant person or persons are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment if such is required to prevent or control the spread of infections, including those that are health care associated.

"an individualised risk assessment" means a risk assessment which considers:

(a) The risks to the health and well-being of the service user both of having and not having face to face contact with either two or more significant persons (for purposes of paragraph 3, sub-paragraph (k)) or one relevant person (for purposes of paragraph 3, sub-paragraph (l));

(b) The risks to the health and well-being of other service users arising from the registered person facilitating face to face contact between the service user and a person or persons significant to that service user; and

(c) The risks to the health and well-being of the service user (and to other service users) of alternative options for contact to minimise the risks identified in (a) and (b).

"significant person" means any person falling within section 4(7) sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) of the 2005 Act (whether or not the service user lacks capacity for purposes of the 2005 Act to decide whether or not to have face to face contact with them) and "person significant to the service user" is to be read accordingly.

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State for Health.

xxx
Minister of State,
Department of Health

xxx February 2021

Government must urgently change the law to end blanket ban on care home visits

People don't forfeit their human rights when they go into care. They must not be denied the right to face-to-face visits from significant family and friends during the pandemic.

The situation in care homes and mental health hospitals where relatives are unable to visit their loved ones is urgent. Face-to-face visits for those in care – whether they are older people in care, disabled adults, or younger people with autism and/or learning difficulties – are critical to the well-being of residents and their family members alike.

It is important that those in care do not feel they have been abandoned, and that they feel reassured that they are still loved and valued as part of the family. For those with dementia, family visits are particularly crucial in keeping memories alive. Without face-to-face visits many deteriorate, and some sadly die without seeing their loved ones, causing huge pain and heartbreak.

Government guidance is that unless there is an outbreak in the care home, visits should be allowed subject to individualised risk assessments where necessary. That policy is not being enforced. The cross-party Joint Committee on Human Rights, which I chair, has heard many examples of people being denied meaningful visits, where these might be safely facilitated.

Just one example was John, whose wife has dementia and is in a care home. He told us that he has only been able to have restricted visits taking place with a glass partition between them: "I could see how she looked and that was about it. They were not meaningful visits".

The Joint Committee on Human Rights believes there is now an urgent need for legislation which would require individualised risk assessments be carried out in relation to each resident or patient. We have looked at how family visits have been enabled in Ontario, Canada, where they have changed the law to allow access to care homes for a relative who is a designated care-giver, provided they test negative before each visit. This acknowledges that it takes a team to care for someone; dedicated staff in the home or hospital and loving family visiting.

Our Committee has drafted regulations to ensure that nobody in a care home is denied face-to-face visits without a carefully thought-through individualised risk assessment and have presented them to the health and social care secretary. Our legislation would require individual risk assessments for face-to-face contact, where possible, with family and friends whose support is significant to a resident in a care home or hospital setting. Where the risks posed by face-to-face contact are too great, careful thought must be given to alternatives to meet residents' needs.



Government must urgently change the law to end blanket ban on care home visits



It is important that those in care do not feel they have been abandoned, writes Harriet Harman MP. | PA Images



Harriet Harman MP
@harrietharman

Privacy



Harriet Harman
@HarrietHarman

But @Helen_Whately Gov Guidance updated in Jan says visits should be allowed. Has Gov policy changed now so no visits til after all residents & all staff have had 2nd jab? No scientific justification but will cause despair for relatives & residents alike. @HumanRightsCtte



Helen Whately
@Helen_Whately · Feb 3

Writing in @Daily_Express today on the support we're giving to care homes to help them through some of the darkest days of the pandemic. There are good reasons to be optimistic, but the fight isn't over yet.

WE SET out to offer jabs to all care homes for older people by the end of January, and I'm proud to say we met that target. Everyone involved in our vaccination programme, from the scientists who developed the vaccines, to the NHS, local authorities and care homes themselves – they have all done an incredible job. GPs in NHS Primary Care Networks have worked

COMMENT
HELEN
WHATELY
Care Minister

can regularly test staff and residents. The fight isn't over yet. I know relatives are desperate for normal visiting and I

The need here is great, and there is a moral imperative for the government to act to enforce their own guidance. We have drafted a law to ensure this is done, and we call on the government to bring it to parliament now before more people are unnecessary harmed and heartbreak is caused.

Giles Sheldrick @ExpressGilo · Feb 1
 Excl: @RuthieHenshall lays bare the 'guilt & unbearable pain' of knowing her mum is dying of #dementia but is unable to see her as @HarrietHarman & @rightsforresid2 demand urgent law change to end the care home access scandal which is a 'breach of human rights' #coronavirus



9 51 107

Hurstynicky @lanztocon
 Ban on care home visits could be ILLEGAL! About time. Almost a year since Care Homes locked our families inside. Thank you very much @HarrietHarman @leicesterliz @rightsforresid2 🌞🌞🌞



Ban on care home visits could be ILLEGAL
 Legislation has been drafted to stop families being torn apart.
 dailymail.co.uk

Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · Feb 3
 MPs call for Covid ban on care home visits in England to be made illegal | World news | The Guardian



MPs call for Covid ban on care home visits in England to be made illegal
 Matt Hancock urged to allow visits as relatives say blanket coronavirus rule is causing deaths
 theguardian.com

22 38 85

Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · Feb 3
 MPs draft law to restart care home visits and set two-week deadline for government to act | The Independent



MPs draft law to restart care home visits and set deadline for governme...
 Canada-style legislation would enshrine rights for vulnerable loved ones feeling 'abandoned by their families'
 independent.co.uk

Labour Press @labourpress

"Government guidelines haven't worked. We now need urgent action to enshrine the rights of all care home residents to have safe family visits, and to end blanket visit bans." - @leicesterliz

Eleanor Hayward @eleanorhayward

EXC: Draft regulations will be published tomorrow to outlaw blanket bans on care home visits. The legislation drawn up by @HarrietHarman and Joint Committee on Human Rights would enshrine the right of family members to be treated as essential carers.
 mol.im/a/9211891

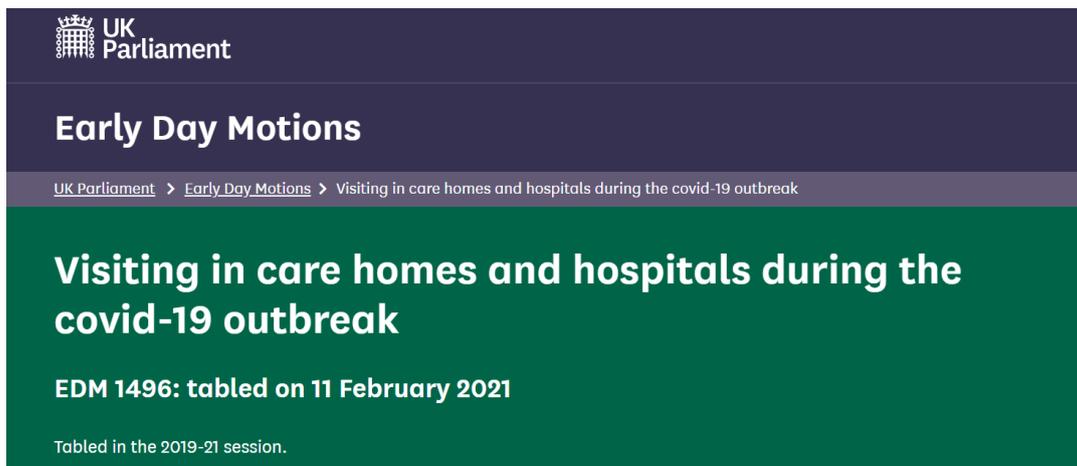


Giles Sheldrick @ExpressGilo · Feb 9
 Excl: @leicesterliz rightly describes the continuing blanket ban on care home visits as one of the 'greatest scandals of the Covid crisis' & demands loved ones are finally let in @rightsforresid2 @JohnCampaign @NCFCareForum @age_uk @HumanRightsCtte @HarrietHarman @RuthieHenshall



10 59 95

I have also tabled a Parliamentary Early Day Motion and have asked all eligible Members of Parliament to sign and show their support for allowing visits to people in residential care during the covid-19 pandemic.



The screenshot shows the UK Parliament website interface. At the top left is the UK Parliament logo. Below it, the text 'Early Day Motions' is displayed in a large, bold font. Underneath, a breadcrumb trail reads 'UK Parliament > Early Day Motions > Visiting in care homes and hospitals during the covid-19 outbreak'. The main heading of the page is 'Visiting in care homes and hospitals during the covid-19 outbreak' in a large, bold font. Below this, it states 'EDM 1496: tabled on 11 February 2021'. At the bottom of the page, it says 'Tabled in the 2019-21 session.'

The motion reads:

[EDM 1496](#): *That this House notes the [letter](#) from the Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the matter of visits to people in care homes and hospitals during the covid-19 outbreak; is deeply concerned about the acute distress many older and disabled people and younger people in residential care and their families are experiencing by being prevented from visiting; recognises that a failure to adopt an individualised approach to the safety of visits risks breaching the right of patients, residents and their families to family life (Article 8 ECHR); further recognises that this must be balanced with the duty to protect the right to life (Article 2 ECHR) for those living and working in care homes and hospitals by preventing infection within these settings; further notes the Committee's proposals in the draft regulations using powers in the Health and Social Care Act 2008, which they published alongside their letter; and calls on the Government to legislate to ensure that visits are able to take place subject to individualised risk assessments.*

I continue to stay in close touch with the residential care homes in Camberwell and Peckham.

Constituency problems – update

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to bring new problems to people in Camberwell and Peckham and make many pre-existing problems worse. So there continues to be an increase in the number of constituents seeking my help. Those who already had financial problems are finding that the COVID-19 crisis only makes them worse. My casework team continue to deal with pre-existing problems as well as the new COVID-19 problems. I have taken action on behalf of **5,886** constituents from 1st March 2020 – 31st January 2021.

So far since the start of 2020, I have recouped **£85,195.47** for constituents who have requested my assistance. This includes underpaid benefit payments, Coronavirus

business grants for local business owners, waived HMRC penalties and compensation for errors and delays from housing associations and the Home Office.

Case summaries:

- A business owner from Camberwell contacted me because his Business Grant application had been refused. Southwark Council had told him that because he was not the registered ratepayer and the business had not been open or trading before the deadline of 17th October 2020. I wrote to the Council to ask them to reconsider as he maintained that the Council information was incorrect. The Council have now corrected their error and the business owner has received a Local Restrictions Support Grant of just over £10,000.
- A constituent from Peckham Rye contacted me regarding a Penalty Charge Notice that her elderly father had received from Lambeth Council whilst attending an urgent cancer care appointment. My constituent's daughter had appealed the Notice to the Council but had not received a response after several weeks. This delay by Lambeth Council led to the PCN amount increasing as the appeal had not been correctly recorded and as a consequence my constituents' car was clamped. I immediately wrote to Lambeth Council explaining the full circumstances, and they unclamped the car and cancelled the PCN.
- A Nunhead resident asked for my assistance with her British Naturalisation Application as after eight months of waiting she had not received a response from the Home Office. I wrote to the Home Office on her behalf and she has received notification that her application is approved and she has been invited to a citizenship ceremony.
- I was contacted by a mother from Brenchley Gardens regarding her family's housing situation. Her daughter has a rare genetic disorder and uses a wheelchair, but the council property the family lives in is wholly unsuitable for her complex medical needs. I wrote to Southwark Council on her behalf, and the Council have offered the family a wheelchair-accessible property which they have accepted.
- A Peckham resident contacted me asking for help in getting access to family therapy at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM). She had been referred to SLaM but had received no response for several months about when her consultation would be. SLaM have offered her a consultation in the next few weeks.
- I was contacted by a constituent in Nunhead who was concerned that the COVID-19 safeguarding measures in place at her local Tesco's supermarket were not being adequately enforced, leaving shoppers at risk. I wrote to Tesco on her behalf and they confirmed that they have updated their COVID-19 safeguarding measures.

- I have received several emails from friends and family members of elderly housebound constituents who have been unable to access COVID-19 vaccines. I have written to the South East London Clinical Commissioning Group on behalf of these individual constituents to ask that these housebound patients receive their vaccinations as soon as possible. I am continuing to monitor the vaccine situation in Camberwell and Peckham closely with regular meetings with the South East London Clinical Commissioning Group.
- I was contacted by a Nunhead woman because though her work visa had been approved she had not received her Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). She urgently needed to travel to Australia for a family matter but was unable to do so without her BRP. I wrote to the UK Visas and Immigration service on her behalf, and she has now received her BRP enabling her to travel.
- A single mother from Rye Lane informed me that she was struggling financially but that she had been told her daughter was not eligible for Free School Meals. I wrote to the child's primary school to enquire whether they could offer any additional support to the family as they didn't fit the free school meals criteria. The Executive Principal of the primary school informed me that the family would be eligible for twice weekly food bags and vouchers that the school distributes to families who do not meet the Free School Meals criteria. The school have agreed to contact the mother to see what additional support they can offer and to help to check her free school meals eligibility.

I have received **11,133** emails from constituents on policy issues between 1st March 2020 & 31st January 2021, the majority relating to COVID-19. Other issues raised since my tenth report:

- Support for McPartland Smith Amendment – Re cladding which I signed.
- Concerns about neonicotinoids and the impact on bees
- Vote to strengthen workers' rights outside the EU
- Support for amendment to the Environment Bill
- Calls to prioritise people with learning disabilities for access to COVID-19 vaccinations
- Thunderclap for carers – support for increasing care workers pay
- Protection of food standards
- Ongoing support for pubs and breweries
- Support for World Health Organisation limits for fine particulate air pollution

Musician's Passport - Reciprocal visa-free touring for UK and EU musicians

The Government has shamefully abandoned our creative sector in its Brexit deal. As a result of leaving the EU, touring musicians and performers are no longer able to travel and work without restrictions in each of the 27 EU member states. Instead they face individual visa regimes for each country. Some countries such as France continue to allow visa-free work for musicians, but others such as Spain or Italy require visas and work permits, which significantly increase the cost and bureaucracy of touring and



makes it unviable for many artists, particularly those at the start of their careers. The UK haulage industry, a key factor in large-scale touring, also faces significant restrictions on its operations.

This is a significant issue. The music industry is a huge UK success story and contributes £5.8bn to the British economy, and it is estimated that 44% of musicians earn up to half of their earnings in the EU. Over 197,000 full-time jobs are sustained by the music industry, which is 4 times as many jobs as the steel and fisheries industries combined.

I am working with many MPs across all parties to get the Government to return to negotiations with the EU to agree reciprocal visa-free touring for UK and EU musicians. Last week I spoke at the hearing of the Petitions Committee in response to a petition by musician Tim Brennan that has received over 284,000 signatures and called on the Secretary of State to stand up for our music industry and secure a deal. Camberwell and Peckham was one of the constituencies with the highest numbers of signatories. I have also written to him separately requesting a meeting with him to press him on this further I have tabled an Early Day Motion on the issue that can be viewed [here](#).

Our creative professionals represent a major UK presence on the world stage, and I am proud that Camberwell and



. @HarrietHarman points out that people don't want a row, they want a fix. The ability to tour the EU without being blocked by endless red tape is absolutely critical, and makes economic sense.

16:49 · 08/02/2021 · Twitter Web App



.@HarrietHarman says "this is not a Covid problem... or a Brexit teething problem, it will endure if we don't get it sorted out." "Every individual musician and organisation says the same... the only aim is to ensure musicians can tour in the EU without hindrance."

16:47 · 08/02/2021 · Twitter Web App



A crystal clear description of a problem which can & MUST be solved. Only govt can. @michaelgove @OliverDowden are you going to sort this out? Buck stops with you!



Joseph Middleton: Brexit is destroying music. Why has the government let this happen? theguardian.com

Peckham is home to so many of these talented individuals. They have already been badly hit by the covid-19 pandemic and we must make sure that this further major problem for their profession is sorted as soon as possible.

79 MPs have signed my parliamentary motion supporting visas for musicians in the EU.

UK Parliament

Early Day Motions

UK Parliament > Early Day Motions > Visas for musicians in the EU

Visas for musicians in the EU

EDM 1413: tabled on 27 January 2021

Tabled in the 2019-21 session.

This motion has been signed by 79 Members. It has not yet had any amendments submitted.

The Motion reads:

'That this House applauds the over 100 musicians who wrote to The Times on 20 January 2021 and agrees that the UK Government must immediately seek supplementary agreement with the EU to secure the ability of all creative workers including musicians, performers, their equipment and others such as technicians to travel and earn in Europe, ensuring the economic benefit of the creative industries to the UK economy and to protect the livelihoods and essential earning opportunities to prevent those musicians from being forced out of their profession, to protect the creative benefit of musicians and others working together across Europe and to protect the important role of our brilliant conservatoires, music departments and all performance venues; recognises the vital role that musicians play in the cultural and community life of the UK; and notes that the petition launched by Tim Brennan on that matter has now exceeded a quarter of a million signatures'.

Petitions Committee session on arrangements for UK touring professionals and artists in the EU

On Thursday 4 February, the Petitions Committee hosted an evidence session after a petition calling on the Government to negotiate visa-free work permits for touring professionals and artists received over 282,000 signatures.

The Committee revealed that 81% of respondents to a survey conducted in the industry say they are likely to stop touring Europe unless a solution is found.

The survey which was sent to petitioners, and those working in the arts, to discover how post-Brexit changes will impact their careers and the industry, had more than 15,000 responses.

You can re watch the whole session [here](#) or click the image to hear my contribution to this very important debate.



Petitions Committee @HoCpetitions · Feb 8
Later today, MPs will discuss a petition on arrangements for UK touring professionals & artists in the EU, led by Chair @CatMcKinnell.

@cj_dinenage will respond for the Government.

Watch from 4.30pm: youtu.be/VsaAKoULWNs

Find out more: [committees.parliament.uk/committee/326/...](https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/326/)

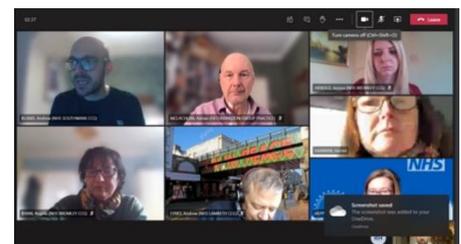


Harriet Harman @Harrietharman · Feb 8
Very strong pressure from MPs of all parties to sort visa-free EU touring for musicians. My speech in parl 🇬🇧



Regular Covid vaccine rollout MP briefing

I attended the latest meeting with NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group, for Southwark and Lambeth MPs to hear about the progress of vaccinations in Camberwell and Peckham. It's encouraging that vaccinations are progressing well, although Southwark is behind South East London as a



whole in terms of the percentage of its elderly population that have been vaccinated. We also discussed:

- Low rates of vaccine uptake amongst local BAME communities and what can be done to reach everyone who is eligible for the vaccine.
- What we can be done to combat misleading and dangerous anti-vaccination information.
- The importance of bringing vaccination hubs to all parts of the constituency, rather than relying on hospitals as the main location for vaccine delivery. This includes using local community centres, pharmacies and places of worship as vaccine centres for everyone to access.

I wrote to Professor Kevin Fenton, Public Health England London Regional Director about the target for the BAME uptake of vaccine.

Dear Professor Fenton,

Re: Target for BAME uptake of vaccine

I am writing following the briefing held on Thursday 21 January for London MPs regarding the vaccine rollout in our local areas. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us.

The delivery of the vaccine is hugely promising and I want to pay tribute to everyone who is working so hard to ensure a rapid rollout. However, as you made clear, you are aware there has been concern at the lower rate of uptake amongst people from BAME communities, due to a number of factors.

If the current differential rate persists it will leave people from BAME communities more exposed to ill health and death, further exacerbate health inequalities and fuel racism. During the call, it was confirmed that there was a target for uptake of the vaccine amongst BAME people, as part of the effort to close the vaccination gap between the BAME and non BAME communities. Could you please confirm what the target is?

Could you also please let me know:

- *what proportion of BAME people who have been tested returned positive results, and the corresponding proportion for non-BAME people, in London; and*
- *what proportion of those currently being treated for Covid-19 in hospital are BAME, in London?*



Covid vaccination of BAME people: NHS must collect and publish data, and set target and milestones to end racial disparity in vaccination. My letter to @ProfKevinFenton. @evenor23 @lb_southwark @HSJnews



Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

You Retweeted Nadhim Zahawi @nad... · 27/01/2021 Covid #vaccines are safe and will save thousands of lives. MPs from both sides of the @HouseofCommons are united on this.

Please watch and share this important video from black MPs from both the @Conservatives and @UKLabour.



367K views 304 replies 1,202 retweets 2,189 likes

Dear Robert Jenrick,

RE: Government funding for local COVID-19 vaccine advice

We are writing to you as a matter of urgency to seek clarification as to why Southwark was not invited to bid for any of the £23 million funding for local authorities expand their vital work to support communities most at risk from Covid-19.

Southwark has been at the forefront of supporting vulnerable residents to access accurate and timely information to help keep them safe through the pandemic. The creation of our Health Ambassadors has enabled us to create a network of trusted local members of our communities to be a channel of reassuring information, but there is much more work that is needed, particularly on vaccine hesitancy among our Black and ethnic minority residents.

We understand boroughs were chosen based on a set of criteria, which it would be really helpful to see, as it's hard to understand how one of the most diverse boroughs in the country wasn't invited to bid for this much-needed funding. In Southwark, over 120 languages are spoken, 25% of residents identify as Black, and almost 50% of young people are Black or minority ethnic. There is no question that, with vaccine hesitancy rates highest in younger age groups, we have a ticking time bomb on our hands.

Although the vaccine rollout is being managed at a national level, and via the NHS, Southwark Council has anticipated the challenge ahead and has been planning for it since the vaccine rollout was announced in December. We are working closely with other boroughs in south east London, and with our CCG partners, to fully understand our residents' concerns, and deliver comprehensive plans to engage and communicate with them. This work is complex and resource-heavy. Whilst assets shared with us by the lucky recipients of the funding might be helpful in the future, they won't help us staff the hundreds of sessions we need to run for our community groups, to hear their concerns, answer their questions, and allay their fears.

We also know, from local research, that communities want to hear from local trusted voices: local health professionals, faith leaders, community champions. We have all these routes into our communities at our fingertips after months of close working throughout the pandemic, but capturing their voices in video, photographs, stories, takes time and money.

To be clear, after spending £57.7 million on our Covid response to support our communities through the last year, and losing £42.3m of income, we are already facing a budget gap of £13 million before we even begin this work in earnest.

Our Black and ethnic minority communities have been disproportionately affected by this virus, are more likely



to become seriously ill and more likely to die, and are the very communities research shows are least likely to take up the vaccine. It is essential that we all play our part in addressing this injustice. In Southwark we are determined to do that, including by working with our Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities to reassure them that taking the vaccine is the right choice for them. We can't afford to be complacent, but nor can your government. It is unthinkable that the national strategy for vaccine rollout ignores or neglects the concerns of the very people most affected by COVID-19.

Southwark needs that funding as much as Lewisham, Greenwich, Hillingdon or Birmingham.

We ask that you immediately announce another round of funding, open to all boroughs to bid for in an open process, to support councils with this crucial and life-saving work.

Yours sincerely,

*Cllr Kieron Williams, Leader of Southwark Council
Cllr Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Community Safety
Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP for Camberwell & Peckham
Neil Coyle MP for Bermondsey & Old Southwark
Helen Hayes MP for Dulwich & West Norwood*

Southwark Leader's Academy –

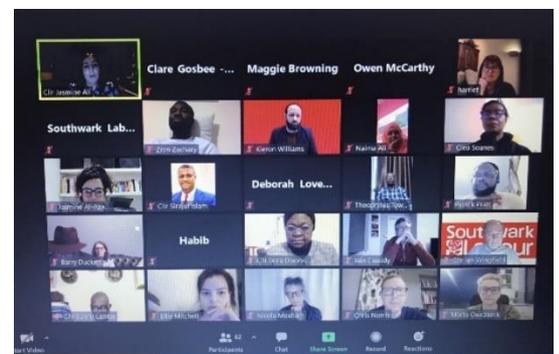
'Why get more involved in the Labour Party?'

It was great to join the Leader and Deputy Leader of Southwark Council, Cllr Kieron Williams and Cllr Jasmine Ali, alongside Florence Eshalomi, MP for Vauxhall, at the inaugural Southwark Leader's Academy event. The academy programme has been developed to help encourage Labour Party members from underrepresented groups to become more active in the party.



It was a popular event that drew nearly 70 members for the first session and it was great to see and meet all those that joined the enthusiastic zoom session.

The follow up event focussed on 'What is the council and why become a councillor?' Led again by Kieron and Jasmine they were joined by Cllr Evelyn Akoto, Cllr Johnson Situ and Cllr Martin Seaton for a Q&A discussion about how they became interested in local politics.



The next session on March 10 will focus on 'Why become more involved in your local community?' Do join if you're interested in finding out more about politics locally.

Government response to Joint Committee on Human Rights Report on Black people, racism and human rights

The Joint Committee on Human Rights has published the Government response to the Committee's report on Black people, racism and human rights.

You can read the Government Response [here](#).

UK government accused of 'dragging heels' on racism -

-The Guardian - Maya Wolfe-Robinson

The committee chair, Harriet Harman, said the government response shows 'they accept the arguments, but they reject the solutions'.

The government is still "dragging its heels" on racism, according to MPs and race equality campaigners critical of its response to a damning parliamentary report on Black people and human rights.

The government's official response to the human rights select committee's report was published on Thursday and rejected the majority of the parliamentarians' 22 recommendations.

The cross-bench group of MPs and peers, headed by Harriet Harman, published their report in November with the aim of "overcoming the seeming inability for government to act" in the face of several reviews showing evidence of racism in Britain.

The report revealed that more than three-quarters of Black people in the UK do not believe their human rights are protected in the same way as white people's. It also highlighted that the death rate for Black women in childbirth is five times higher than for white women and that more than 60% of Black people in the UK do not believe their health is equally protected by the NHS compared with white people.

"The government response shows they accept the arguments but they reject the solutions," Harman said.

The report urged the government to implement the recommendations of previous reviews into racial inequality, including David Lammy's into racism in the criminal justice system in 2016, the Angiolini review of deaths in custody in 2017 and the Windrush Lessons Learned review in 2020.



House of Commons
House of Lords
Joint Committee on
Human Rights

Black people, racism and human rights: Government Response to the Committee's Eleventh Report of Session 2019-21

Fourth Special Report of Session 2019-21

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 10 February 2021



Defending itself against “any assertion of inaction” from the select committee, the government said it had implemented 33 out of 35 of the Lammy review recommendations.

Lammy, however, said the claim was deeply misleading and that the government had implemented “just a handful” of the recommendations in full. He said: “Instead of sticking its head in the sand and pretending structural racism does not exist, the government must act now to implement all 35 of my recommendations, as well as the countless other reviews, commissions and reports on race.”

The response highlighted the government’s commission on race and ethnic disparities, which was established in the summer, and it defended the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, which the committee had castigated for failing to adequately provide leadership and gain trust in tackling racial inequality.

The committee also urged the government to implement a comprehensive race equality strategy and to create a new body to look at race. This idea, however, was rejected. “The government does not agree that race should be treated differently from other protected characteristics in the Equality Act,” the response said.

Halima Begum, the director of the Runnymede Trust, dismissed the response as more “denial and dismissal from a government that’s failing to take the action necessary to combat racial inequality”. She pointed out that the government’s commission had already lost the trust of the race equality sector and said ministers were dragging their feet. “It seems intent on dragging us back to the 1970s in terms of race relations,” she said.

Begum also said the government had ignored vital recommendations on health inequalities during the Covid-19 pandemic, pointing to the vaccine policy, which centres on age as a risk factor but not ethnicity.

Harman also criticised the government for not collecting ethnicity data at the point of vaccination. She said its response had talked of the importance of monitoring, gathering data, and inequality in healthcare, but it had “clearly made a decision not to collect this information ... And that leaves a huge gaping hole in their ability to tackle the racial disparity in vaccination.”

The government said the UK had made “significant progress over the years in tackling racism” and pointed to manifesto commitments to tackle prejudice and discrimination. It said it would not be appropriate to pre-empt the findings of its commission, which will “submit its findings to the prime minister in due course”.



Ministerial and other Maternity Allowances Bill

Those of us who've had the privilege of getting to the top while having babies are honour-bound to help all women enjoy the same – starting with pay and shared parental leave

Suella Braverman is having her second baby any time now. She's also the Attorney General. It's only a good thing that government is a team of women and men. It sends a terrible message to women in the country if all key decisions have to be made by men. And, as we know, women are more likely than not to have babies. When they do they physically can't be doing their job when they are giving birth and in the immediate aftermath they should be able to have time off to bond with and care for the new baby in the early months. Having a baby should no longer mean that you have to give up your work or take a step down on the career ladder. But that, for many, is still the choice.

It takes a lot to get to be Attorney General and I don't think Suella Braverman should have to give up her office because she's having a baby. But the role of Attorney is important and there needs to be someone doing it at all times. So, it's a "no-brainer" that the government should appoint a maternity replacement.

There's a statutory limit on the number of cabinet ministers who can be on the payroll so to have a maternity replacement needs new legislation.

The government could have just ducked this and spread the role round other ministers. But that would have been to undermine the office of Attorney General and a bad thing. They could have asked Suella Braverman to keep a "watching brief" on her office while off with the new baby. But that would have been wrong all round, to the office of Attorney, to Suella as a new mother and to her baby. So, I'm glad the government has made an open decision to ask Parliament to provide for maternity leave for ministers.

Senior civil servants have six months paid leave so that's where they plan to set it.

This move by the government offers an opportunity for us to once again focus on the wholly inadequate level of Maternity Allowance and Statutory Maternity pay, the lack of employment protection for women on maternity leave and the woefully low level of take up by fathers of parental leave because most men can't afford to take it. And once again we must insist on more progress.

Parliament giving rights to women to reconcile their family responsibilities with their role in government is a good thing. It's setting a good example and will encourage other women in senior positions to demand the same. But to make it feel fair it must be accompanied by some more changes for women as a whole.

PoliticsHome

THEHOUSE



The House Live @TheHouseLive · Feb 4

NEW: Suella's Law is a step forward for women in politics. Those of us who've had the privilege of getting to the top while having babies are honour-bound to help all women do the same – starting with pay and shared parental leave, writes @HarrietHarman



As we celebrate Suella Braverman's maternity leave, we must also guara...
Those of us who've had the privilege of getting to the top while having babies are honour-bound to help all women enjoy the same – starting ...
[politicshome.com](https://www.politicshome.com)

We've seen Jacinda Ardern take maternity leave while in office as prime minister of New Zealand. The more we recognise the importance of women being able to combine work and family – and change the rules to make that possible – the better. I hope the government will add the right for ministerial fathers to take paternity leave. We need to show there's no contradiction for a man to be both committed to his job and committed to his role as a father.

I wish Suella all the best for her second baby. And I hope that "Suella's law" will mean that our Attorney General turns into a dogged champion for the maternity rights of all women in this country. Those of us who've had the privilege of getting to the top and being able to keep our job at the same time as having babies are honour bound to strive to help all women, especially those who struggle to make ends meet, do the same.

2nd reading of the Ministerial and other Maternity Allowances Bill

The Government has done right for the Cabinet ministers maternity pay and leave. Now they must address the deplorable maternity pay and leave for all women.

See my contribution to the debate below or click image to watch:

I strongly support the Bill and everything that has been said so far by the Minister, by my hon. Friend the Member for Leeds West (Rachel Reeves) in an excellent speech, and by the Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee. I also fully support everything said by the hon. Member for Truro and Falmouth (Cherilyn Mackrory).

The Bill formally recognises that women now play an invaluable role in public life and that women have babies, and that we should support them and not downgrade them when they do. It is true that it has taken forever for us to get here, but better late than never. I do think we Toggle showing location of Column 541 must give the Government credit for bringing the Bill forward, because they could have tried the fudge, favours and verbal behind-closed-doors promises that were the best that women Ministers could have hoped for in the past. The Bill sends a big and important public signal of valuing women's work and recognising their commitment, including at the highest level. The Government have done the right thing by the Attorney General and women Cabinet Ministers; now they need to put right the completely wrong situation for the rest of the women in this country.

Women are doing an amazing thing when they have a baby. It takes a huge toll on a woman's body to carry a baby, and it is the most demanding thing to care for a new baby, and yet we punish them by cutting their income and making them insecure at work. Statutory maternity pay is only £152 per week—less than half of what people get on the national minimum wage—so the woman's income is clobbered just when she needs to be spending more. Honestly, if men had babies, do we really think that maternity pay would be so insultingly low? Not a chance. The law allows a year for maternity leave, but many women are forced to go back way before that, and before they feel they or their baby are really ready, because they simply cannot afford not to,



Harriet Harman
@HarrietHarman

The govt has done right for Cabinet ministers maternity pay & leave. Now they must address the deplorable mat pay/leave for all women. My speech today 🙌 1/2



2,337 views

or they fear—with justification—that they will be downgraded or even sacked if they take more than a few months.

We are here in Parliament to do the hugely important job of being an MP, but we have an additional responsibility as women in Parliament to fight to improve the lives of women in this country. Therefore, as I give the Attorney General my genuine and warmest best wishes for her second baby, I am counting on her, when she comes back, to be an outspoken champion in Government of the maternity rights of all women.



Opposition Day Debate, Employment Rights: Government Plans

During an opposition day debate on 25 January Labour debated a motion on the Government's plans for the Employment Bill:

'That this House believes that all existing employment rights and protections must be maintained, including the 48-hour working week, rest breaks at work and inclusion of overtime pay when calculating some holiday pay entitlements, and calls on the Government to set out to Parliament by the end of January 2021 a timetable to introduce legislation to end fire and re-hire tactics'.

Labour won the vote 263-0, the Conservatives didn't even vote. My contribution to the debate:

I join the hon. Member for South Suffolk (James Cartledge) in paying tribute to all those who have worked through this covid crisis, and particularly to those in essential services.

I support the motion, and I agree with everything said from the Labour Front Bench: we must have no watering down of hard-won employment rights. However, a new employment Bill is also an opportunity for new rights, which are sorely needed by families in today's world of work. The structure of our current rights was based on the notion of the employed male breadwinner, supported by the wife at home looking after their children. Even if she worked, her primary responsibility was to the children, and she would be supported by her own mother, who would most likely be retired. However, most women now work—many are self-employed rather than employed—and grandmothers, who used to be able to be relied on to step in, are still working.



We have introduced important rights, such as the right to request flexible work, paternity leave and parental leave, but there are glaring omissions, which should be addressed in any future Bill. A man or a woman employee is entitled to paid sick leave, but what if the child is sick? Parents cannot leave a sick child at home on their own. We should back our working parents when their child is sick. Instead, we leave them in the lurch. One parent—usually the mother—has to ring the employer and beg for time off, often to be told she has to take it as holiday or unpaid leave, which is especially hard for low-income families.

In a future employment Bill, we therefore need to give a parent of a primary school-age or younger child who cannot go to school or nursery when they are sick the right to paid leave. Other countries do that. That also needs to extend to grandparents, in case that is who is best placed to take the time off when the child is sick. Many parents rely hugely on grandparents, especially in the first year of a baby's life, so we should factor them into parental leave too. Currently, the mother and the father can share 50 weeks' leave between them. We should make it so that that could be split between, say, the mother, the father and one of the grandparents. The point is to give families the choice.

The Government mentioned having more employment rights for families in their manifesto. That is encouraging, and there will be strong support for that from the Toggle showing location of Column 94 Labour Benches, but also from the Government Benches and, above all, from the Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee, the right hon. Member for Romsey and Southampton North (Caroline Nokes). I welcome the Secretary of State to his new job. If he wants to do some good and make a difference, I look forward to him agreeing across parties to make progress on this.

The Government announce they will not be proceeding with the Employment Bill

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Kwasi Kwarteng MP has announced that the Government will not be proceeding with a review of employment rights as announced in the Queen's Speech.

Together with Caroline Nokes MP, Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee, I have written to ask the Secretary of State for clarification about when the Government intends to bring forwards its planned Employment Bill. Text of the letter is below:

Dear Kwasi,

Re: Government's Employment Bill

We are writing regarding the proposed Employment Bill that was included in the 2019 Queen's Speech.

You recently announced in an interview with ITV's Peston that the Government will not be proceeding with a review of employment rights.



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · Jan 28

Are gov't still going ahead with Employment Bill in Queen's Speech? And promised protection for low paid and gig workers and support for working families? Review of UK workers' rights post-Brexit is axed in sudden U-turn | Kwasi Kwarteng | The Guardian



Review of UK workers' rights post-Brexit is axed in sudden U-turn
Only last week, new business secretary Kwasi Kwarteng confirmed consultation was going ahead
theguardian.com

What does this mean for the manifesto commitment to protect those in low-paid work and to support working families, and the commitment in the Queen's Speech to a bill that would prevent maternity discrimination and introduce an entitlement to leave for unpaid carers?

Will you be proceeding with an Employment Bill, and does the Government have an indicative timetable for introducing it?

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon. Caroline Nokes MP and Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman MP

The Fire Safety Bill

Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in June 2017, the Government established a Building Safety Programme with the aim of ensuring that residents of high-rise residential buildings in England are safe. Yet nearly four years later, around 700,000 people are still living in high-rise blocks with flammable cladding.

A House of Commons Public Accounts Committee report said progress on remediation has been "unacceptably slow", with residents facing exorbitant costs of funding interim safety measures and many residents reporting worsening mental health as a result. Despite promises that cladding costs would not be passed onto leaseholders, Ministers have done little to help. In the meantime, leaseholders remain stuck in dangerous buildings facing ever increasing bills.

This issue affects not only high-rise buildings but can affect any building containing flats. Many constituents in Camberwell and Peckham have been unable to move or re-mortgage due to lenders requesting EWS1 forms for buildings below 18 metres. As these forms are not intended to apply for buildings under 18 metres high this leaves leaseholders stuck. It is vital for the Government to address this issue and provide updated guidance on fire safety requirements.

Labour is pushing for the Government to establish a National Cladding Taskforce to address unsafe cladding and protect leaseholders from the costs of remediation. The Taskforce should be underpinned with strong powers to establish the full extent of dangerous materials on buildings, prioritise them according to risk and ensure there is enforcement against those who refuse to undertake works. The Taskforce must be backed with up-front funding and include a legally enforceable deadline of 2022 to make all homes safe.

On February 1st Labour introduced a motion calling on the Government to protect leaseholders across the country living with unsafe cladding. I and all Labour MPs voted in favour of the motion (263-0), whilst the Government ordered its MPs to abstain on this crucial issue. It is unacceptable that leaseholders should have to shoulder the



Last week Boris Johnson promised he would announce support for leaseholders affected by the cladding scandal.

Yet this week, it turns out the Government has betrayed them.

This is a colossal injustice that Ministers have yet again failed to correct.



costs of unsafe buildings, and we will continue to push for the necessary support for all those affected.

The Government's announcement on 10th February of funding for the removal of cladding on buildings taller than 18 metres I do not go anywhere near far enough. It is unacceptable that any leaseholder is told to pay for building safety issues that they were not responsible for.

The Fire Safety Bill the Government introduced in March 2020 as part of its response to the Grenfell tragedy didn't include provisions to ensure that leaseholders are protected from unfair fire safety costs. I have signed the four Labour Amendments and five McPartland Smith Amendments that pressed for these provisions, and Labour will vote to give leaseholders greater protection when the Fire Safety Bill returns to the House of Commons.

The Government must act to end this injustice and support the amendments.

The Government's Independent Human Rights Act Review

The Government have set up an independent panel to review the operation of the Human Rights Act. The Joint Committee on Human Rights which I chair is seeking views to help inform its response to the independent review and its outcome.



The Joint Committee on Human Rights is asking for submissions which focus on one or more of the following issues:

- Has the Human Rights Act led to individuals being more able to enforce their human rights in the UK? How easy or difficult is it for different people to enforce their Human Rights?
- How has the operation of the Human Rights Act made a difference in practice for public authorities? Has this change been for better or worse?
- What has been the impact of the Human Rights Act on the relationship between the Courts, Government and Parliament?
- Has the correct balance been struck in the Human Rights Act in the relationship between the domestic Courts and the European Court of Human Rights? Are there any advantages or disadvantages in altering that relationship?
- Are there any advantages or disadvantages in seeking to alter the extent to which the Human Rights Act applies to the actions of the UK (or its agents) overseas?

Former Attorney General and Supreme Court President questioned by the Joint Committee on Human Rights



House of Commons

NOTICES OF AMENDMENTS

given up to and including

Thursday 11 February 2021

New Amendments handed in are marked thus ★

Amendments tabled since the last publication: LA4 (j)

CONSIDERATION OF LORDS AMENDMENTS

FIRE SAFETY BILL

On Wednesday 27 January the Joint Committee on Human Rights took evidence from Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, former President of the Supreme Court and Dominic Grieve QC, former Attorney General, Eve Samson, Clerk of the Journals, House of Commons and Saira Salimi, Speaker's Counsel, House of Commons on the relationship between the judiciary, executive and Parliament.



Dominic Grieve QC



Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury



Eve Samson



Saira Salimi

We examined the operation of the Human Rights Act and asked whether there is any evidence that would justify reform.

- You can watch the session on Parliament TV [here](#)
- You can find out more about the inquiry: The Government's Independent Human Rights Act Review [here](#).

Former President of the Supreme Court, Baroness Hale gives evidence to Joint Committee on Human Rights on merits of the Human Rights Act

On Wednesday 3 February the Committee heard from the Former President of the Supreme Court, Baroness Hale for the Committee's second session of the inquiry into the Government's Independent Human Rights Act Review.



This session explored the impact of the Act on the relationship between the domestic courts and the European Court of Human Rights. In particular it looked at how judicial dialogue between the courts works in practice.

- You can watch the session [here](#): Government's Independent Human Rights Act Review

Nomination of Saudi women's rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize

I have nominated Loujain al-Hathloul for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

Loujain is a women's rights activist from Saudi Arabia, and until very recently was a political prisoner sentenced to 5 years 8 months in prison for her activism on fighting to end male guardianship, protecting women escaping domestic violence, and campaigning for women driving.



She has been released from prison after 1,001 days in custody, during which she faced torture and sexual assault, but she is still unable to leave the country and faces severe restrictions upon her freedom. Her continued fight for women's rights is remarkable.

Celebrating and remembering in this month's report

The Labour Party @UKLabour

We:

- Repealed Section 28
- Equalised the age of consent
- Introduced the Gender Recognition Act and the Equality Act
- Created Civil Partnerships, the precursor to Equal Marriage

LGBT+ rights are human rights, and we're proud to stand with the LGBT+ community.

#LGBTHistoryMonth



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman

Happy Birthday 🎂

Dulwich Hamlet FC (H) @DulwichHamletFC · Jan 28

We don't look a day over 128.

Happy Birthday to us 🎂

#DHFC



UK Parliament @UKParliament

The Palace of Westminster is illuminated tonight to mark #HolocaustMemorialDay.

We remember the six million Jews murdered under Nazi persecution, and the victims of subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

#LightTheDarkness



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman

Hard to overstate what Captain Sir Tom symbolised during this crisis. But one of the important things he showed is, even frail with old age, he inspired and uplifted. Never write off that extraordinary generation! RIP Captain Sir Tom. My sympathy to his family.

Captain Tom Moore @cap... · 02/02/2021



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala @NOIweala

It is done! Thank you @WTO members for finalizing my election today and making history. In the 73 years of GATT and WTO, honored to be First Woman and First African to lead. But now the real work begins. Ready to tackle the challenges of WTO. Forget Business as usual!



Working differently!

I and my staff team are continuing to work remotely. I remain enormously grateful to my dedicated team who are diligently continuing to help my constituents, supporting my work as an MP and as chair of the Human Rights Committee. They have overcome technology issues and made their homes into their offices to continue their work.

Coronavirus Help and Support

Southwark Council:

- [General information on Coronavirus](#)
- [Covid-19: What can you do to help](#)
- [Financial support for residents](#)
- [Food access](#)
- [Coronavirus housing advice](#)
- [Covid-19: Support and information for businesses and employers](#)
- [Southwark COVID-19 community grants](#)
- [Voluntary sector help and advice on Coronavirus](#)
- [Impact on council services](#)
- [Advice on potential coronavirus related scams](#)

Bereavement support:

- The government has published a [bereavement support leaflet](#) to help those who have lost a loved one. The leaflet shares information to help bereaved families, friends, or next of kin make important decisions during this national emergency, sets out what to expect next, and signposts the extra help and support that is available.

Citizens Advice – Benefit advice:

- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/coronavirus-check-what-benefits-you-can-get/>

Government business advice:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

- Government's Business Support Helpline on 0300 456 3565, Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm.

HMRC:

- [helpline for businesses and self-employed people who are concerned about their tax](#) due to COVID-19.
- 08000 241222, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Domestic violence help and support:

- [Solace Women's Aid](#) - Advice Line - 0808 802 5565
- Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm. Additional 6pm - 8pm on Tuesdays.
- Email: advice@solacewomensaid.org

Mental health help and support:

- [Lambeth and Southwark Mind](#)
07871 940 763 - 8am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
- [Samaritans](#) - 116 123 - 24/7

Legal advice

- [Southwark Law Centre](#)
- [Citizens Advice Southwark](#) has resumed drop-in sessions from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm 5 days a week at:
 - Peckham - 97 Peckham High Street, SE15 5RS
 - Bermondsey - 8 Market Place, Southwark Park Road, SE16 3UQ
 - Walworth - 6-8 Westmoreland Road, Walworth, SE17 2AY



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Let me know your views at harriet.harman.mp@parliament.uk