

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

## **November Report**

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA  
0207 219 4218  
[harriet.harman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:harriet.harman.mp@parliament.uk)  
[www.harrietharman.org.uk](http://www.harrietharman.org.uk)  
[@harrietharman](https://twitter.com/harrietharman)

## This is my November report 2021 in which I:

- share with you how I'm going about my work as MP,
- 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.

*Harriet Harman*



### Remembrance Day 2021

On 8<sup>th</sup> November as Mother of the House of Commons I attended the opening of the Speaker's inaugural Constituency Garden of Remembrance. I placed a Remembrance stake on behalf of Camberwell and Peckham, in memory of all those who have fallen for this country.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> I attended the Southwark Borough Remembrance Sunday service at Walworth Square and I, alongside the Mayor of Southwark Barrie Hargrove, laid a wreath at the war memorial. Special thanks go to all those who organised this year's ceremony and to Alberti Brass and the London Syrian Trio for the beautiful music that

made the ceremony so moving.



**29 October 2021**

**October is Black History Month.**

*The reason this is important is that the past contribution of black people to our history in the UK is all but overlooked.*

*I strongly support what Black History Month does, particularly in our schools.*

*This is necessary for children and young people from immigrant families and for those whose families have always lived here.*

*Our history is made by all the people here whether they have been here for generations or are newly arrived.*

*I want to use this year's black history month to celebrate the current contribution of black people of Southwark.*

*Our democracy can only command confidence if all are represented.*

*We are fortunate in Southwark to have black councillors, rooted in and speaking up for their communities.*

*Evelyn Akoto is one of the councillors for Old Kent Road ward. Her family came from Ghana and at the age of 6 brought her to live on the Aylesbury Estate where she grew up.*

*She now leads for Southwark council's cabinet on the issues of health and wellbeing. Johnson Situ was born in King's College Hospital to a family who came from Nigeria and was brought up on what was the North Peckham Estate.*

*He is one of the councillors for Peckham and works in City Hall in a senior role as right hand man for the Mayor of London.*

*I want us to celebrate all our black councillors in Camberwell and Peckham and acknowledge how important they are in our democracy: Peter Babudu, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Jason Ochere, Victoria Olisa, Sandra Rhule, Michael Situ, Cleo Soanes.*

*Parliament needs to be representative of all communities as that's the whole point of democracy. So our House of Commons benefits greatly from the contribution of my neighbouring MP Florence Eshalomi who speaks with an authoritative voice for her community in Vauxhall.*

*Black people from Southwark have played a leading role in our arts and sporting achievements.*

*John Boyega who's famous worldwide for his part in Star Wars learnt to love acting at Theatre Peckham.*



*Our achievements at this year's European Championship put the spotlight on a new generation of young black footballers who offer such promise for the future.*

*Southwark has honoured Jadon Sancho who was born here and started his career here.*

*Doreen Lawrence, another resident of South-east London has responded to the tragic murder of her son Stephen by driving a root and branch reform to challenge racism in the Met.*

*She's now in the House of Lords and brings her unique voice and experience to our Parliament.*

*Too many black people who shaped our past have been forgotten.*

*I want to celebrate the black people who are shaping our present.*

*These are just a very few of them.*

*As well as removing the statues of those who grew rich by exploiting and abusing black slaves, perhaps we should be asking why there are virtually no statues of black people who've played leading roles in making our country the great place it is today.*

## **Celebrating Black London – Southwark Labour event**

The poster features five speakers in circular frames with their names and titles below them: Miatta Fahnbulleh, CEO of the New Economics Foundation; Zita Holbourne, Activist and National Vice President of the PCS Union; David Lammy MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Justice and Shadow Lord Chancellor; Cllr Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Southwark Council; and Cllr Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader of Southwark Council and Labour Group. A central graphic shows a raised fist holding a key. The event title 'BLACK LONDON: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE' is prominently displayed. Below it, a text box asks: '2020 saw the streets of the UK and the US shaking with anger at endemic racism and violence, and Southwark was certainly no exception. What does the past of Black people in London and Britain tell us about systemic racism? What signs are there today that the edifice may be ready to crack? What does the future promise - and what do we need to do if we are to be free at last?'. The event is scheduled for November 15th, 7.30pm, as an online event. The Southwark Labour logo is in the bottom right corner.

On 15<sup>th</sup> November, I was pleased to join Councillor Jasmine Ali, Councillor Evelyn Akoto and other Councillors and members at a Southwark Labour event to explore the history of black people in London and discuss what more we can do to end systemic racism.

## **Pushing the Metropolitan Police to do more to earn the trust of black people**

In 2020 the Joint Committee on Human Rights, which I Chair, commissioned polling on black people's lack of trust in the police which can be viewed [here](#), and found that 85% of black people did not feel that they would be treated the same as a white person. In a briefing for London MPs with Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime on 26<sup>th</sup> October which I attended, I pressed the Deputy Mayor on this and asked whether she was doing any specific polling to chart the Metropolitan Police's progress towards gaining the trust of the black community, emphasising the importance of black-led polling in order to understand the situation and annual measurements and targets to drive progress. The Deputy Mayor agreed that this was important and promised to report back to me on this issue. I will continue to press the

Mayor's office to improve the Metropolitan Police performance for the black community.



Harriet Harman  
@HarrietHarman

Full solidarity w/Richard Ratcliffe on eve of his meeting with Foreign Sec. I hope @trusslitz will do all he asks in quest 2 #FreeNazanin @FreeNazanin @TulipSiddiq



## Ending the imprisonment of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

On 27<sup>th</sup> October I visited Richard Ratcliffe, the husband of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe campaigning for her release from prison in Iran. I showed my support for him in his hunger strike and my strong condemnation of the Iranian authorities' imprisonment of Nazanin and all dual British-Iranian nationals.

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been in detention since September 2016 and I fully support her husband Richard in his campaign to free her and the pressure he is seeking to put on the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to obtain her release. I visited him on the fourth day of his recent hunger strike, which you can see [here](#). I also visited him in 2019 when he was on hunger strike outside the Iranian Embassy, which you can see [here](#). I continue to liaise closely with his MP Tulip Siddiq.

## Ending Fire and Rehire

The aggressive use of Fire and Rehire as a negotiating tactic is causing workers unimaginable financial and mental pressure, with many losing up to a third of their yearly salary. It is even a tactic used by household brands, many of which have made record profits during the pandemic. On Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> I voted along with my Labour colleagues for Barry Gardiner MP's Private Members Bill to end Fire and Rehire. But the Government voted against providing greater security for workers, blocking the progress of the Bill.

The use of this appalling practice will continue to spread so long as the Government refuses to ban it. I will continue to support all efforts to reform employment law to end the practice of Fire and Rehire.



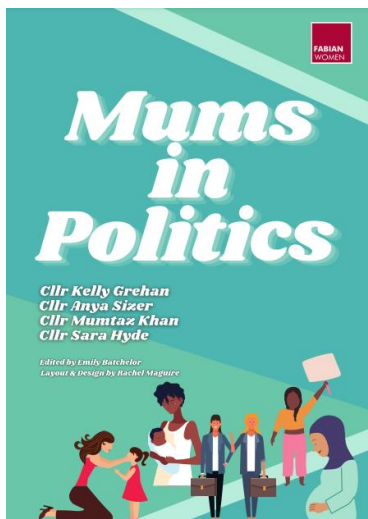
Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · Oct 22  
Just voted for the Stop Fire & Rehire Bill to go forward @BarryGardiner  
#StopFireandRehire



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## We need more mothers in politics

When Parliament doesn't look like those it represents it is not surprising that people might doubt whether politicians understand their lives. Good public policy is made by people who understand the issue, and that understanding comes from experience.



That is why it is essential that we have more mums in politics and more mums “in the room” when key decisions are taken that affect their lives.

I wrote the foreword to the Fabian Women’s Network booklet *Mums in Politics* that was launched at this year’s Labour Party Conference. It contains personal stories about what it is like being a mum in politics at all levels. You can read the full booklet [here](#).

My foreword:

*The misery of miscarriage, the roller coaster of IVF, the struggle with breastfeeding, the unpredictability of the “due date”, the commitment to your work, the challenge of childcare - all these are the daily experience of millions of mums in Britain today. And that is why we need to have, in politics, women who have personal experience of motherhood. Government and council policies have a big impact on mothers, whether it’s housing or policing, childcare or maternity services. Yet our decision-making remains male-dominated. Too often there are still no women “in the room” when key decisions are made or the women who are there are not listened to by the male hierarchy. Public policy doesn’t work properly if it’s made by people who don’t truly understand the issue. So, mums-to-be and mums of children of all ages are necessary for our politics. We are not doing mums a favour by including them in politics, their participation is a democratic imperative.*

*The legitimacy of our democracy is always being tested. People understandably forever doubt whether politicians understand their lives. Our democracy needs mums in politics so that women in the country raising their children can see that in their councils and in their parliament there are women who truly do understand their lives because they share their experiences.*

*The underrepresentation of mums in politics is not evidence of mums not wanting to be in politics or not being able to. It’s the result of the persistent discrimination that writes off a mother as too busy or too distracted to be able to do her work properly. The same judgment is never applied to fathers. We’ll know we’ve ended that discrimination and got properly representative politics when the number of mums in politics reflects the number of mums in the country. And when men take equal responsibility for caring for children, and older relatives, the lives of all women including women in politics will be dramatically transformed.*

*We’ve made huge progress in ensuring that mothers are in there sharing power and decision-making. But we still have a long way to go.*

## **Stopping men getting away with killing their partners: a new offence of “Sex Murder”**

On 12<sup>th</sup> November, after I had requested that the Attorney General refer the sentence as Unduly Lenient, the Court of Appeal disappointingly refused to increase the sentence for Sam Pybus after he had received only four years and eight months in jail for killing Sophie Moss in February 2021 by strangling her and then saying it was what she wanted.



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · Nov 2

Thanks @Laura\_Farris for convening very productive meeting on getting justice for women victims of sex murder with @Wecantconsentto @HWistrich @centreWJ @LDNVictimsComm  
P.s. Thanks @fionamacmac & @Louise\_m\_perry for bringing lovely babies!



...

Men continue to get away without murder charges when they kill their partners during sex. It is clear that the law is not working as Parliament intended, and only a new offence will protect women and stop men getting away with murder.

Earlier in November I met with Laura Farris MP, Claire Waxman the London Victims' Commissioner, Helen Wistrich from the Centre for Women's Justice and Fiona Mackenzie and Louise Perry from We Can't Consent to This, to decide what next steps we will take to end

the growing trend of men getting away without a murder charge.

We are all agreed that a change to the law is needed. I proposed and drafted a new offence of "Sex Murder" that would ensure that any person who killed their partner during sex and intended the action that led to their death would receive a mandatory life sentence. This proposed new offence was tabled to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill in the House of Lords and it was debated on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Unfortunately there was no vote but I continue working to achieve the law change necessary to ensure victims of sex murder receive justice.

### Doing more to ensure that MPs are safe

The killing of Sir David Amess shocked us all. He was killed for doing his job, and the death of an MP cannot be the price we pay for democracy. I wrote about how important it is for me to be able to meet my constituents and how we can develop meaningful, cross-party proposals for MPs safety.



## HARRIET HARMAN: 'I DON'T WANT TO RETREAT BEHIND BULLET PROOF GLASS'

01 November, 2021

*Just last week I went to a pensioners meeting in Camberwell and met with tenants representatives in Walworth. As always, I was visible publicly and had no security. I want to be able to continue to do that.*

*When longstanding Southend MP Sir David Amess was murdered at his advice surgery it was a tragedy for his wife and family. But it was also an attack on our democracy.*

*The only reason he was attacked was because he was an elected member of the House of Commons and he was killed when he was doing his job.*



*The shock for us was compounded by the fact that this was the second MP to be murdered in their constituency in the last five years. In 2016 Jo Cox, the new MP for Batley and Spen in Yorkshire was shot.*

*It is a distinct and important feature of our democracy that MPs do not swish about in armoured cars. We walk about our constituency, we take public transport.*

*MPs who come on visits from other countries are astonished about how accessible we are. But it's part of our pact with our voters, that they will vote for us but when we go up to Parliament we will stay in contact with them. This is important not just for local people, who need to know that we are listening to them and understand their concerns. But it's important to us MPs too, to hear first hand what's going on and see for ourselves.*

*Just last week I went to a pensioners meeting in Camberwell and met with tenants representatives in Walworth. As always, I was visible publicly and had no security. I want to be able to continue to do that and don't want to retreat behind bullet proof glass.*

*But we can't just say that we'll carry on as if nothing has happened. It cannot be an occupational hazard for an MP that you might get killed. We cannot say that two murdered MPs is just a price worth paying for our democracy.*

*We need to ensure that MPs are as safe as we can possibly be. After Jo Cox's murder MPs were given more security in our homes. And protection in and around the House of Commons was massively upgraded. But the problem of how we go about our work mingling with our constituents in a safe way has not been solved.*

*The problem is not just advice surgeries, it's community meetings and walkabouts. The question of how we ensure we can continue to do all this safely cannot be left to the police, or to Government, though they need to play their part. It's a matter for Parliament itself. That's why I've proposed that we have a Speaker's Conference. This is a rarely used mechanism which allows the Speaker to bring the political parties together and include the Government and agencies to consider and then make proposals for change.*

*This is a serious issue which needs detailed consideration and sensible action. We must neither have a knee-jerk overreaction or just carry on with business as usual. Last time I proposed a Speaker's Conference after Jo Cox's murder it was blocked by the Government. I hope this time they agree.*

*Ultimately it's for each and every one of us as MPs to decide how we do our work. But it would really assist if we could have a well-considered set of proposals from a Speaker's Conference which we could all put into effect.*

## **My letter to the House of Commons Speaker about MPs Safety**

In light of the killing of Sir David Amess I also wrote to the Speaker of the House of Commons, outlining my proposal for a Speaker's Conference as the necessary response to threats of violence to MPs.





A Speaker's Conference would hear from all MPs, including those who – though willing to share privately their very real fears for their safety – are unwilling to speak up about it publicly. This would enable Parliament to develop meaningful, cross-party proposals to be taken forwards to help guarantee our safety and to enable us to continue working and meeting with all of our constituents.

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

## Upholding standards in public life

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November the House of Commons held a vote on whether to uphold Owen Paterson's suspension as an MP after he breached lobbying rules, and whether to change the disciplinary procedure for MPs. This was nothing more than an attempt by the Government to interfere in a standards case where the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards had ruled that he had broken Parliament's rules and this had been endorsed by the Parliamentary Committee on Standards. The Government narrowly won the vote, but less than 24 hours later in the face of overwhelming pressure from Labour and public opinion it performed a U-turn and put forward a resolution to rescind the original vote.

I spoke in the debate on Owen Paterson. You can watch my speech [here](#). It is vital that MPs uphold the highest standards. If not, fragile trust in our democracy will be lost and it will take a long time to restore the reputation of the House of Commons. I voted against the Government motion and I will continue to support efforts to strengthen the rules that govern MPs.

My contribution in the chamber:



*I am regretful at rising to speak in this debate. Although we have political adversaries in the House, we are also all colleagues who work together in the same place. I have the utmost sympathy for the family tragedy that hit the right hon. Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson) and the greatest admiration for how he then took up the campaign for the prevention of suicide to help others. In the more than 20 years that*

*we have been in the House together, he has shown me nothing but kindness and courtesy.*

*It is very much because we as MPs know and understand each other that the House recognised that we needed a complaints system that involved a strong measure of independence. We all recognise that the public want, and are entitled to, the highest standards from their elected representatives, and we are proud to claim that that is the case. We all recognise that the people who elect us want us to act in their interest and in the public interest, and that they want no conflict of interest to blur the issue of our private financial interest with our role as MPs.*

*Trust in our democracy is all important, but it is fragile. The reputation of the House is easily damaged and, when damaged, hard to restore, as we discovered not only in the lobbying scandal, but in the expenses scandal. How we deal with this issue will reflect on the House as a whole and on each of us individually. I hope that Members on both sides are clear that this is House business, not Government business, and therefore the vote should not be whipped, much though the Whips will try.*

*We made these rules on lobbying; we need to enforce them. No one foisted the process on us; we initiated it and decided it. Where there are criticisms about the rules that we decided on, changes can be proposed, but as the right hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr Carmichael) said, they must have an all-party basis to go forward with integrity. That is the way we should do things.*

*What we must not do is make the rules and then decide to set them aside when we have misgivings about the outcome. I will oppose the amendment and support the motion, and I urge right hon. and hon. Members on both sides of the House to do the same.*

## **Securing visa- and permit-free work and travel in the EU for the UK's world class musicians**

Our world class music sector depends both financially and culturally on touring in the EU. On 18<sup>th</sup> November I led a debate in Parliament on the obstacles facing UK musicians attempting to tour in the EU since Brexit. MPs from all parties and all parts of the UK attended my debate and spoke passionately about the need for a resolution, encouraging the new DCMS Minister to take this opportunity to deliver for musicians. I told the Minister that she should go in person to each EU country to both get a feel for the practical barriers to touring, and to talk directly to European counterparts in order to sort out these problems.

The UK music sector was worth £5.8bn before Covid and yet 11 months after the UK and the EU signed the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the situation remains a "no deal" for the sector. In comparison to free movement, UK musicians looking to tour or work abroad in the EU now face:

- 27 different work permit regimes
- 27 different visa regimes
- 27 different requirements for proof of the work that's going to be undertaken.



- Hours spent on forms, providing bank statements, downloading hotel reservations
- Days spent travelling to and sitting in consulates
- Weeks spent waiting for HMRC to process A1 forms that need to be provided to employers in Europe.

That is before mentioning the new cabotage rules that have hampered the British haulage industry and prevent a lorry from making more than 3 laden stops before having to return to the UK, as well as the requirement for carnets and CITES certificates for the transportation of instruments.

The result is that the successful, vibrant model of touring abroad is no longer viable for UK musicians, particularly those at the start of their careers. But this situation not only affects musicians' economic viability it also impoverishes the UK culturally. Our



Harriet Harman  
@HarrietHarman

Thanks @DJWarburton & MPs from all parties & all parts of UK in yesterday's debate re UK musicians touring in EU. No point Minister @JuliaLopezMP sitting in @DCMS while @DavidGHFrost does nothing. She must go to all EU countries to sort.  
[parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/ac...](https://parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/ac...)

10:38 AM · Nov 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App

... music sector needs the cultural creativity that they get from working in Europe, and without it we will all be worse off.

The Government can and must fix this situation. I will continue to work with colleagues across the House to demand the Government act to secure the future of our world class music sector. You can see the debate in full [here](#).

## Home Office decision-making in asylum cases is failing and the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill will make this worse

The Joint Committee on Human Rights, which I chair, has responsibility for scrutinising the human rights implications of all Government-proposed Bills. We have conducted legislative scrutiny on the Nationality and Borders Bill and reported that it breaches our human rights obligations.



The Joint Committee heard from experts involved in the asylum process about the UK's asylum system and how the Government's Bill proposes to change it.

On 17<sup>th</sup> November the Committee heard evidence about how the

Government has overseen an asylum process that takes years, fails to protect vulnerable asylum seekers, and how the increased caseload and under-resourcing of immigration officials has led to mental health concerns for those working in the system.

It is clear that the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill would only increase the bureaucracy of the system and the difficulty of the application process for vulnerable people who arrive here fleeing persecution.



On 18<sup>th</sup> November the Committee published the first of its reports on the Nationality and Borders Bill, focusing on Part 1 of the Bill that relates to nationality law. You can read the report [here](#).

We will be holding further evidence sessions, including questioning a Home Office Minister, and issuing further reports to the House. You can read more about the legislative scrutiny [here](#) and follow sessions on my [twitter](#) page.



## Challenging the Government for their failure to protect the rights of residents in care homes to receive visits



On 21<sup>st</sup> September the Joint Committee on Human Rights announced its new inquiry into human rights in care settings. We have since received heart-rending evidence from relatives and patients that indiscriminate restrictions on visiting in care homes remain in place and families are still being prevented from visiting their loved ones.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November I wrote to the Minister responsible for care homes, and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), urging them to start accurately monitoring whether care homes allow visits from family and friends, do more to enforce Government guidelines, and revisit the Committee's draft legislation that would put the right

to visits on a statutory footing. You can read the letters [here](#).

I also wrote further about the complete failure of the Government and the CQC to guard the rights of those in care homes in an article in the Daily Express, which you can read [here](#).

The Joint Committee on Human Rights continues to evaluate the written evidence that was submitted to the inquiry and we will hold public evidence sessions in the new year. You can read about the inquiry [here](#).

## Visit to Westminster House Youth Club

Westminster House Youth Club in Nunhead provides activities and offers homework support for young people aged 8-18. The Youth Club plays a vital role within the community. On 27<sup>th</sup> September I visited and was able to meet a group of young people taking a food hygiene safety course when I visited. I was also very interested





to hear about their recent trip to see *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical!*

## Visiting St Johns & St Clements Primary School during Parliament Week



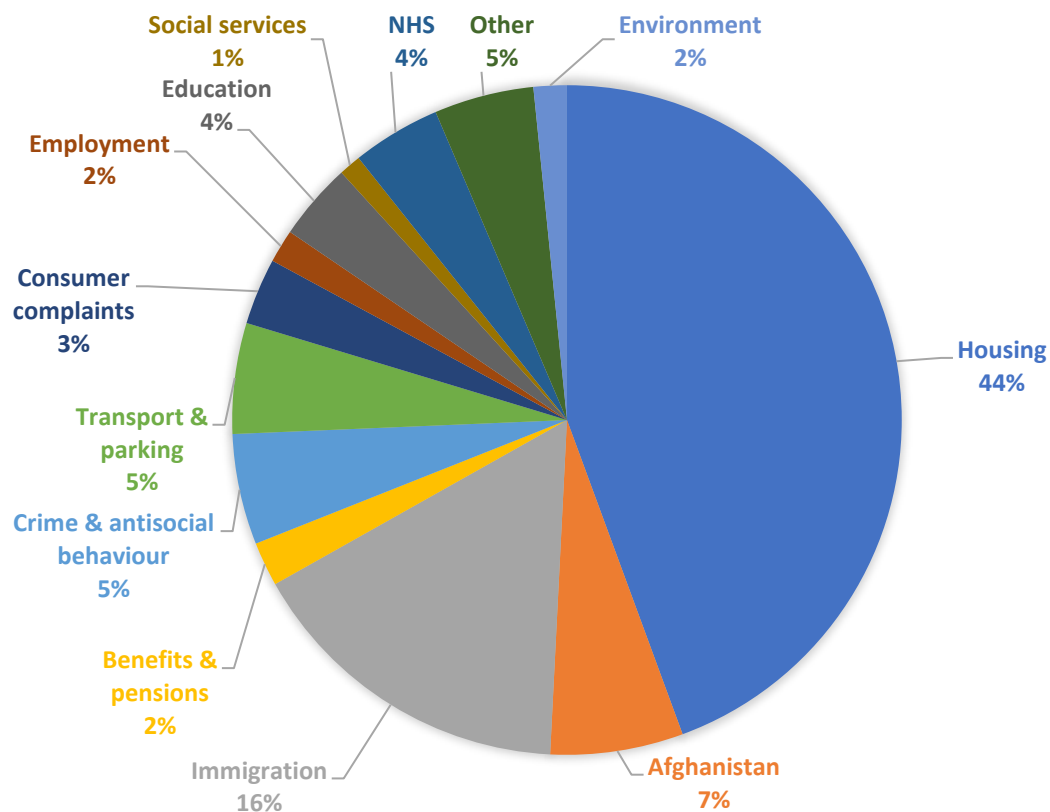
1-7 November was Parliament Week, during which young people across the country take part in activities to learn more about the UK Parliament.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November I visited St Johns & St Clements Primary School in Peckham to hear from the students about their upcoming school council elections and to talk to them about how democracy works, my role as MP and the work that I do in the local constituency.

## Constituency problems - update

My casework team continue to deal with problems including ongoing COVID-19 issues, and there continues to be an increase in the number of constituents seeking my help.

### New cases breakdown – October 2021



In October I took action on **595** cases. Since the start of 2021, I have taken action on **7,038** cases.

This month I have recouped £23,486.15 for constituents. Since the start of 2021, the total I have recouped for constituents is **£83,995.18**. 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 Walworth man requested my help with his immigration affairs. He had been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain as a refugee from Egypt in 2020 but was provided with a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) that displayed the incorrect endorsement and photograph. He immediately raised the error with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) but had not received a response for over nine months. I wrote urgently to UKVI on his behalf requesting that they issue him with a correct BRP and they replied to apologise and explain that this was the result of a technical error on UKVI's new casework system. My constituent has now received his new BRP displaying the correct information.
- A Peckham resident, originally from Afghanistan, asked for my assistance with his immigration affairs. He submitted an application for Indefinite Leave to Remain nine months ago but had not yet received a response from the Home Office. I wrote to the Home Office requesting a report on the progress of his application and to ask when he could expect to receive a decision. As a result he has now been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain and received his Biometric Residence Permit.
- A Walworth man who discovered he had been overpaying tax for the last four years contacted me to ask for assistance in claiming back his overpayments from HMRC. He had previously submitted the necessary documentation and was informed that he would receive a repayment but seven months later he had still not received it. I wrote to HMRC on his behalf requesting that they provide an update about when the repayment would be made. As a result, HMRC have now issued a BACS repayment for £23,402.95 including £84.15 interest.
- A Southwark Council tenant from Champion Hill contacted me because his toilet was broken and had to be flushed manually with buckets of water. He complained that the toilet had been like this for many years but the Council had not carried out the necessary repairs. He was very concerned because his wife was due to have major stomach surgery and as a result would no longer be able to lift buckets of water to manually flush the toilet. I wrote urgently to Southwark Council asking that they resolve this unacceptable situation, and as a result a new cistern has been installed.
- A woman from Queens Road who has caring responsibility for her son with complex disabilities asked for my help because her oven had broken several months ago, leaving her unable to cook hot food, and it had not been fixed by her landlord, Peabody Housing Association. She had originally reported the issue to Peabody but they had told her that they would not be carrying out any repairs in the next three years. I wrote to Peabody on her behalf to request that

they urgently fix the fault with the oven and Peabody responded confirming that they would fit a new oven in her kitchen.

- A Camberwell woman asked for my help because her landlord Optivo Housing Association had moved the communal bin for her housing complex right next to her property and the smell had filled her home and led to a cockroach infestation. I wrote to Optivo Housing Association on her behalf to ask what actions they plan to take to resolve these issues. They responded informing me that they have moved the bins back to a more suitable position and have arranged for an urgent pest control inspection for my constituent.
- I was contacted by a Peckham man who is concerned about the damage being caused to parked cars by lorries and large vehicles driving along Commercial Way. The narrow road makes it difficult for larger vehicles to pass in both directions and parked cars are hit and damaged by the traffic, leaving local residents with substantial repair costs. I wrote to Southwark Council who informed me that they are currently working on measures to reduce non-residential parking on Commercial Way and provide priority parking for residents. The Council tell me that this will significantly reduce the number of parked vehicles, providing more room for larger vehicles to pass.

In October I received **742** emails from constituents on policy issues covering:

- Campaign to stop fossil fuel exploration, production and funding – I agree with the need to stop this
- Keep climate promises campaign – I support this campaign to hold the Government to its climate promises
- Campaign to sign letter to Bank of England about financing of fossil fuels – I support this campaign
- Campaign on green homes – I support this campaign
- Make the Wayne Couzens Inquiry Fit For Purpose – I agree that the inquiry should be statutory
- Protect Palestinian human rights defenders under attack – I agree with the importance of protecting human rights defenders
- Make the Ivory Act as effective as possible – I support the effective implementation of the Ivory Act
- Please say no to stealth privatisation of the NHS – I support resisting any further privatisation of the NHS and voted against the Health and Care Bill
- Please ban live exports by supporting the Kept Animals Bill - I support the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill
- Make trains cheaper than planes to tackle climate change – I agree that we must make rail travel more affordable

### **Working differently!**

I and my staff team are working part remotely and part from the office. 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.

## Help and Support

### Government schemes for those seeking to leave Afghanistan

The Government have 3 schemes for those seeking to come to the UK from Afghanistan

\*Repatriation of UK nationals and their families

\*The ARAP (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy) scheme is for bringing to the UK those Afghan citizens who worked directly for the UK government

\*The Afghanistan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme which aims to resettle Afghan nationals who have been displaced from their homes due to the recent crisis and will prioritise women, girls, children and those most in need, who are likely to face human rights abuses and dehumanising treatment by the Taliban. This scheme is limited to 5,000 this year and 5,000 per year for each of the next 4 years.

Support and resources for British and non-British nationals who have been affected by the situation in Afghanistan from August 2021. Please click on link to information and advice:

- **[Support for British and non-British nationals in Afghanistan](#)**
- **[Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme](#)**
- **[Afghanistan - Foreign travel advice](#)**
- **[Support for veterans](#)**

### 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](mailto: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



House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA  
0207 219 4218

harriet.harman.mp@parliament.uk  
www.harrietharman.org.uk  
@harrietharman

Let me know your views at [harriet.harman. mp@parliament.uk](mailto:harriet.harman.mp@parliament.uk)