

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

October Report

21 October 2021



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

This is my October 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.

Haniel Hamman



Sir David Amess MP RIP

There was shock and dismay that Sir David Amess, an MP for nearly 40 years, was stabbed to death in his constituency advice surgery in Leigh-on-Sea on Friday 15th October. This is the second murder of an MP in just 5 years. We need to continue to engage with our constituents but we need to ensure we can do that in a way that is safe. The death of an MP cannot just be a price we pay for democracy.

Sir David was one of the most dedicated but also the most affable of MPs.

He looked beyond party differences to work with so many of us on a multitude of issues of common concern. His commitment to his constituency, his commitment to Parliament and his belief that he could and did make a difference was exemplary.



I have called for a Speaker's Conference to discuss MP's safety following Friday's tragic events. I called for a Speaker's Conference after the death of Jo Cox MP in 2016 but it was rejected by the Government. I hope they will now agree to it.

Bill Skelly RIP

I was very sad to hear of the passing of Bill Skelly. Bill was from Durham but made his home in Southwark where he was a councillor for many years including serving as mayor. He had a lifelong commitment to the trade union movement and to the Labour Party. He lived in Camberwell New Road and supported many community organisations. I shall miss his



wisdom, friendship and his good advice as well as his wry sense of humour. Rest in Peace Bill Skelly.



Demanding a proper police response to violence against women

On 17th September Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary published a highly critical [report](#) listing wholesale failings in the police response to violence against women and girls. I challenged the Government to implement the full findings of the report in an Urgent Question in the House of Commons on the 22nd September. My contribution:

I thank the Minister for her response and welcome her to her new role and wish her well in it. I will support her in her work, but we need a greater sense of urgency. In just the last few days, there have been more horrific killings of women. In Sheffield, 35-year-old Terri Harris was killed together with three children, John Paul Bennett, Lacey Bennet and Connie Gent. In Greenwich, primary school teacher Sabina Nessa was only 28 years old.

Her Majesty's inspectorate of police, Zoë Billingham, rightly describes this as an "epidemic" of male violence against women, and the extent of the impunity of men for this violence is shown by the killer of Sophie Moss saying that it was just "rough sex gone wrong" and literally getting away without a murder charge.

All credit to the Government for commissioning this report. Will they now implement its recommendations in full? We have a woman Home Secretary, and I believe that women in leading positions have a special duty to deliver for other women. Although she will meet the inevitable institutional objections and traditional resistance to change, she will, if she does this, have 100% support from this side of the House and, indeed, 100% support from her own side. It is not often we can say this, but this is something that the whole House wants.

You can watch my contribution and see the Minister's response [here](#).

Tackling sexual misconduct in the Metropolitan Police

The full horror of how Wayne Couzens used his warrant card, handcuffs and police powers to kidnap and kill Sarah Everard on 4th March was made public at the sentencing hearing on 30th September where Couzens was sentenced to a whole-life prison term. Women should be able to trust the police, not fear them. Major changes are needed and I don't believe these changes can be





driven by the Metropolitan Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick who appears to deny the scale of the problem and still refers to the "occasional bad 'un".

I wrote to the Home Secretary Priti Patel MP and Dame Cressida Dick calling for the changes that need to be made to rebuild women's trust and I called for the Commissioner to resign so that those changes can be taken forward by someone who recognizes the problem and is committed to change.



.. You can see my letters [here](#).

Cressida Dick has failed the women of this country and must resign

Harriet Harman

Friday October 01 2021, 12.01am, The Times



Women should be able to trust the police, not fear them. But every woman in London will have seen the chilling video pictures of a police officer using his power of arrest and his handcuffs to [abduct Sarah Everard](#) in order to then rape and murder her. Cressida Dick, the Met commissioner, says the police have been "rocked" by this. But women's confidence has been rocked to the point of collapse.

We need action to enable women to [trust the police](#). And it's obvious what that action is. We need an overhaul of the vetting procedure for new police recruits. We need a training programme for serving officers which makes them look at their own attitudes and spot warning signs amongst their colleagues.

An allegation of violence [against a woman by an officer](#) should mean immediate suspension followed by an investigation, not by their own colleagues but by a different force.

Covering up for a colleague should warrant immediate dismissal. There need to be checks when an officer moves from one force to another. These are changes which need immediate and determined implementation, led by a Metropolitan commissioner determined to make change.

That's why it cannot be led by the current commissioner. She described the officer who killed Sarah Everard's as just "the occasional bad'un". It was on her watch that he transferred from Kent police without the allegations against him there being checked. It was on her watch too that he committed indecent assault which [his Met colleagues](#) then failed to report.

Even after all that, she could have taken action as soon as she discovered that the man admitting to Sarah's murder was [a serving police officer](#). She could have then acted on the complaints she had received from the Centre for Women's Justice or implemented the proposals of the Police Inspectorate. But she has done nothing. No one can have confidence that she will drive through the change we urgently need.

Priti Patel has said she's been asking questions of the Met Commissioner but it's not questions we need from the Home Secretary, it's action. She should have announced the implementation of the police inspectorate report which identified serious systemic failings of the police to protect women and girls and bring offenders to justice.

Everyone is grief-stricken for Sarah Everard's family and we hope that the "whole-life" sentence, which means he'll never be released, will give them some solace. But we need to face up to the fact that this should never have happened and do what we can to make sure it doesn't happen again. That means a Home Secretary determined to drive change in the police and introduce tough new laws and [a new Met Commissioner](#).

Demanding action from the Government to tackle sexual misconduct in the police

I brought the issue of sexual misconduct in the police to the attention of Parliament with an Urgent Question on 20th October. I challenged the Home Office to act on the failings of the police to deal with sexual misconduct in the force. My contribution:



Wayne Couzens used his Metropolitan police warrant card, his Metropolitan police handcuffs and his police powers to kidnap and kill Sarah Everard. Since the full horror of this was made public at the sentencing hearing, there has been an outpouring about the failure of the police to deal with misogyny and sexism within the force.

Women need to be able to trust the police, not fear them. That means that we need to be certain that allegations of sexism and misogyny result in immediate suspension—not just removal from the frontline but immediate suspension from the police—that findings of sexual misconduct lead to instant dismissal, that vetting and training is sorted urgently, and that if you are in a WhatsApp group that deals in sexual violence and misogyny you should not be in the police. The official inquiries that the Minister mentioned are under way are welcome, but even before those inquiries report, these basic issues should be tackled now.

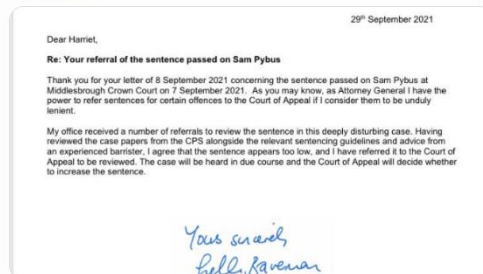
We need firm leadership from the police—from the top of the police—in recognising that big change is needed, and a determination not to stand in the way of that change but to make it happen. I know the Home Secretary agrees with us on that. I do not believe that will happen under the current Metropolitan police commissioner, who should, I believe, step down so that this vital change can happen and happen now.

You can watch my contribution and the Minister's response [here](#).

Stopping men avoiding murder charges when they kill their partners during sex

For a number of years there has been a growing problem of men seeking to evade responsibility for killing their partners by saying that it was "rough sex gone wrong". The latest example was Sam Pybus who killed Sophie Moss in February 2021 by strangling her and then saying it was what she wanted. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) dropped the murder charge, and on his conviction for manslaughter he received only four years and eight months in jail for the killing.

Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman · Sep 29
Important that @attorneygeneral @SuellaBraverman has agreed to my request to refer Sam Pybus sentence to Court of Appeal as unduly lenient. Now fundamental changes needed to stop men who kill their partners avoiding murder charge #justiceforsophie @CPSUK @MaxHillQC @laura_farris



On 8th September I wrote to the Attorney General Suella Braverman MP to ask her to refer his sentence to the Court of Appeal as Unduly Lenient. She confirmed to me that she has referred it and the hearing will be on 12th November.



Harriet Harman @HarrietHarman

As Sam Pybus becomes the latest "rough sex" killer to escape murder charge, @Laura_Farris & I complain to DPP about @CPSUK dropping murder charges @centreWJ @Wecantconsentto @VeraBaird



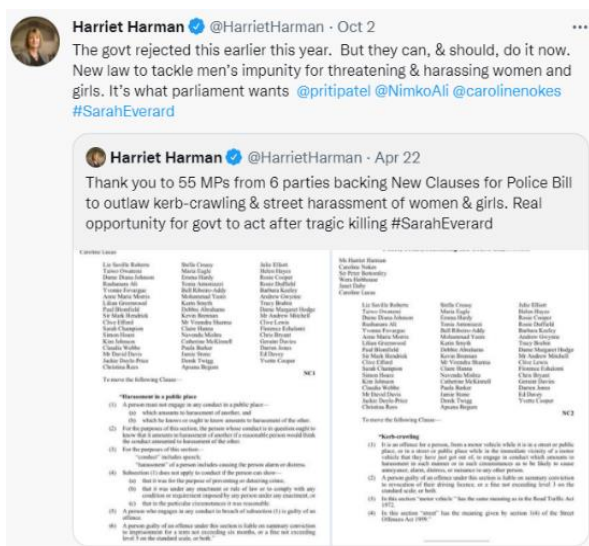
I challenged the Director of Public Prosecutions Max Hill QC at a meeting with Laura Farris MP about the failure of the CPS to ensure that men who kill their partners during sex face murder charges rather than evade responsibility by claiming it was rough sex gone wrong. I am not convinced that the CPS is taking the action needed on this. I am continuing to work with other MPs and women's organisations to tackle this problem and end this culture of excuses.

Ending male harassment of women and girls in the street

Following the horrific murders of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, Sarah Everard, and Sabina Nessa there was an outpouring from women all around the country protesting about violence against women and girls and in particular male threats and harassment in the street. In March I tabled New Clauses to the Government's Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill that would have made street harassment and kerb-crawling a crime. The Government rejected my proposed New Clauses but I will continue to build support for them and press for them to be made into law.

You can read my article on this [here](#).





Challenging Chief Superintendent Colin Wingrove to do more to protect women and girls

I raised the importance of our local police doing more to protect women and girls with the Southwark Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Colin Wingrove when I attended a briefing call with South London MPs on 5th October. I challenged Chief Superintendent Wingrove to take action on offences like street harassment of women and girls and indecent exposure. As well as being horrible to experience these offences can be a warning sign that the offender will go on to more violent crimes.

Pressing for greater rights at work for families with sick children

You can't leave a young child on their own when they're sick. But there's no right to take time off work, let alone sick pay. Mumsnet, in partnership with me, carried out a survey in September asking parents' views on whether Statutory Sick Pay should be extended to cover parents when a child of nursery or primary school age is off school sick. Over 1,000 parents responded to the survey.

88% of parents reported having taken time off work to care for a sick child, of whom:

- 39% had taken annual leave,
- 29% had taken unpaid leave,
- 10% had reduced their hours or dropped work, and
- 2% had left their job.

More than half of working class parents (52%) reported taking unpaid leave to look after sick children. They were twice as likely to take unpaid leave as middle class parents. Women and the self-employed were most affected by the need to take time off work to care for sick children.

90% of parents said they would support extending Statutory Sick Pay for this purpose. The forthcoming Employment Bill is our chance to insist that the Government implement this change.



Women's Rights in Healthcare: opening remarks to the Leigh Day Solicitors annual conference on 7th October

I gave the opening remarks at the fourth annual conference on women's rights in healthcare, hosted by the law firm Leigh Day. As October is black history month, I focused on the dreadful disparities in maternal healthcare between black and white women. 78% of black women do not believe their health is equally protected, and this isn't surprising when they are 5 times more likely to die in childbirth than white women. Yet there is currently no plan within the NHS to end this disparity. I have called on the NHS to set a target to end this inequality and to track its progress towards this every year.



Leigh Day Healthcare
@LeighDayHealth

"78% of black women do not believe their health is equally protected compared to white people, and there is currently no plan in the NHS to acknowledge that and to deal with that" @HarrietHarman #WRH2021

What we need to do to sort out our health services: Southwark News 30th September

The COVID-19 vaccine means the pandemic is coming under control. But it is far from over and the government has serious work to do now, and in the months and years to come to sort out our health services, *writes Harriet Harman...*



In lockdown, we all clapped for the NHS, yet nurses are underpaid and overworked. They must increase recruitment by a major programme of grants for those undertaking nurse training. We need them and shouldn't deter good people by making them pay for their own training. Many experienced nurses are burnt out and considering leaving. Senior nurses are invaluable and we must keep them by better pay, filling vacancies so they are not overworked and proper professional recognition.

Our care services need a complete overhaul. Many end up in residential care because they can't get the support they need at home. Carer visits of fifteen minutes are a travesty. A good service of carers, well respected and well paid, is needed to help people at home with the basics of getting up and dressed, bathing, cleaning, food shopping and preparation, sorting out medication and providing companionship.

There has, rightly, been a focus on mental health during COVID. Children unable to socialise or go to school, people unable to go to work, families separated, relatives dying, have all taken their toll on mental health.

We are fortunate to have the Maudsley's outstanding services but the truth is that even before the pandemic there were long waiting times for those of all ages, whether as outpatients or in hospital. There is agreement that mental health services must no longer be the poor relation of health care. Yet that remains the case and it must change.

King's is a pioneering hospital in so many ways and cares for many people whose health is worsened by low income and poor housing. But the waiting lists for treatment have risen and people have to spend hours in Accident and Emergency before they are seen. There are over 63,000 people on the waiting list for King's of which nearly a quarter have been waiting longer than the 18 weeks target. The dedicated team at King's do their best but they need more resources, and certainly not cutbacks. COVID has made this worse but there was a problem even before then.

The NHS needs more funds, but the government are wrong to raise the money by NIC increases which hit the lowest paid, including those working in the NHS and in care homes.

Poor health in Southwark compared to other areas will be worsened by our lower vaccination rate. High vaccination rates mean fewer people get the virus and if they do, have milder symptoms and fewer long-term effects. Of those adults offered vaccination 82 per cent across the UK have taken the jab. But in Southwark barely more than half have been vaccinated, only 58 per cent, lower even than the London average. We need the Clinical Commissioning Group, which leads on vaccination, to redouble their efforts, with government backing, to ensure we level up the Southwark vaccination rate. Low vaccination rates in our area mean more infection circulating, more people at risk of serious illness and death, more hospital admissions and more long-term illness.

For good health we need not only good health services, with people able to quickly see their GP in person, but also people being able to lead healthy lives. You can't do that if you're struggling to make ends meet. So tackling income inequality is vital. But there's no chance of that with the Conservatives. That will have to wait for a Labour government.

Concern about waiting times at King's College Hospital

The latest data on waiting times for King's College Hospital is as follows:

NHS waiting lists and waiting times			
Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and England			
Category and date	Measure	King's College Hospital	England
Hospital waiting lists July 2021	Number on waiting list	63,015	5,606,724
	Waiting over 18 weeks (%)	23.6%	31.7%
	Waiting over 52 weeks (%)	2.8%	5.2%
Diagnostic waiting lists July 2021	Number on waiting list	6,855	1,383,460
	Waiting over 6 weeks (%)	10.7%	23.5%
	Waiting over 13 weeks (%)	3.5%	9.0%
Cancer treatments Quarter ending June 2021	Patients treated within 2 weeks of GP referral (%)	92.9%	85.9%
Cancer treatments Quarter ending June 2021	Patients treated within 62 days of GP referral (%)	74.3%	73.9%
A&E waits August 2021	Patients waiting over 4 hours in major A&E (%)	39.9%	33.8%

With the exception of A&E waits, King's is performing above the national average

Concern about Southwark lagging behind in vaccination levels

I am concerned about the lower vaccination levels in Southwark compared to the national rate and that this is exacerbating existing health inequalities. Of those adults offered vaccination 82 per cent across the UK have taken the jab. But in Southwark barely more than half have been vaccinated, only 58 per cent, lower even than the London average.

Cohort coverage progress to date

Up to 7th October 2021

**Our Healthier
South East London**
Integrated Care System

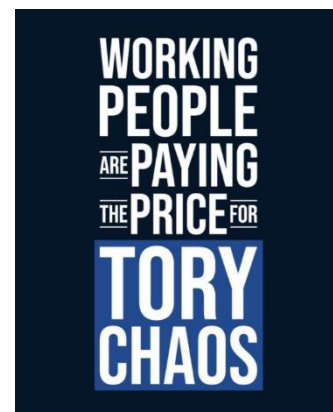
Cohorts	2a	3	4a	5	7	8	9	10a	11	12	13	1a	1b	2b	4b	6a
	80+	75-79	70-74	65-69	60-64	55-59	50-54	40-49	30-39	18-29	16/17	Care home residents	Care home staff	H&SC staff	CEV	At risk conditions
Bexley	96%	95%	95%	93%	92%	91%	89%	82%	71%	66%	46%	96%	96%	90%	93%	88%
Bromley	95%	95%	94%	92%	91%	88%	87%	82%	73%	68%	54%	97%	92%	92%	93%	87%
Greenwich	91%	90%	89%	86%	84%	82%	79%	73%	64%	57%	38%	94%	95%	86%	86%	81%
Lambeth	81%	82%	81%	78%	75%	73%	71%	64%	58%	61%	35%	93%	91%	84%	79%	74%
Lewisham	84%	85%	83%	81%	79%	75%	74%	69%	63%	53%	32%	92%	94%	83%	81%	74%
Southwark	83%	84%	83%	81%	78%	76%	74%	67%	59%	57%	35%	93%	89%	85%	82%	76%
SEL	90%	90%	89%	85%	83%	80%	78%	72%	63%	60%	40%	95%	93%	86%	85%	79%

Latest vaccine coverage in southeast London boroughs

Once again I challenged the South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to address this at a meeting with other Southeast London MPs and the CCG. I will continue to ensure that every effort is made to improve the vaccine rollout in Camberwell and Peckham to close the vaccine gap.

Shameful ending of £20 Universal Credit uplift

The Government shamefully ended the £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit on 6th October despite widespread opposition from the Labour Party and civil society organisations. There are 11,270 children living in Camberwell & Peckham who have been hit by this cut in Universal Credit and there is widespread concern in the constituency with over 200 constituents contacting me to express their opposition to this cut. It will also undermine the local economy as it is estimated that the cut will take £19,084,000 out of the local area. I will continue to oppose this draconian cut.



Government's Nationality and Borders Bill threatens to endanger refugees and violate their human rights

The Nationality and Borders Bill raises major concerns about the human rights of refugees fleeing violence and seeking asylum. The Joint Committee on Human Rights, which I chair, is responsible for scrutinising all new laws proposed by the Government and considering and reporting on any

human rights implications. We have now held two evidence sessions on the Nationality

and Borders and Bill, which makes arriving in the UK without permission a criminal offence, allows for dangerous “pushback” at sea for migrants in unsafe boats and paves the way for the Government to create offshore processing centres.

All countries have to play their part to provide sanctuary for those fleeing persecution. The UK has a lower percentage of refugees arriving than many other countries but must still provide safe routes to all. There are no safe legal routes if the cap on refugees is 5,000 and you are the 5,001st.

We will be holding further evidence sessions and issuing a report shortly to the House. You can read more about the legislative scrutiny [here](#) and follow sessions on my [twitter](#) page.



Unmarried mothers whose babies were taken from them in the 1950s, 60s and 70s: Joint Committee on Human Rights launches inquiry

Everyone has the right to family life, but the basic human rights of young unmarried mothers and their babies were violated when, in the 1950, 60s and 70s, their babies were taken from them and placed for adoption.

I was contacted by a constituent who had her baby taken from her and placed for adoption when she was 15. I met her in her home to hear about the lifelong suffering caused to her, the baby's father and her child by the taking of her baby without her consent. Her experience will form part of the evidence for the Joint Committee on Human Rights' inquiry

On 23rd September the Joint Committee on Human Rights launched its inquiry into the experiences of those who were affected by adoption in that period. You can read the article I wrote on this issue in Politics Home [here](#).

The inquiry is currently accepting evidence until 28th October. Evidence can be submitted [here](#).

Visit to Theatre Peckham

On 22nd September I visited Theatre Peckham. We are very fortunate to have a thriving arts community in Peckham, not the least of which is Theatre Peckham. I visited and congratulated the theatre management team on their new productions and their ongoing work with local young people.





Speaking at Southwark Pensioners' Parliament

Every year Southwark Pensioners' Centre hold a Pensioners' Parliament. This was the first one held since the pandemic and took place at William Booth College on 18th October. Helen Hayes MP and I joined them. I spoke and answered questions on a whole range of issues including difficulties getting an appointment to see the GP, long waits in Kings A&E, the threat of rising heating costs and food prices, the breaking of the "triple lock" protection of pensioners' income and the shortage of staff for health and social care. I reported on my casework on behalf of pensioners in my constituency and congratulated the Southwark Pensioners Centre on being awarded the Civic Award for their work for pensioners during the pandemic.



Harriet Harman
@HarrietHarman

All important work with the community in the constituency today. Meeting pensioners @SwarkPensioners @helenhayes_ @SuecharlieSmith



Harriet Harman
@HarrietHarman

An honour to attend @lb_southwark Covid Civic Awards at @Southwarkcathed this eve. Inspiring community activity in response to the terrible suffering caused by the Covid-19 pandemic & congrats to new Alderpersons @FionaMColley & Mark Williams



Congratulations to Mark Williams and Fiona Colley (bottom right) who were made Alderpersons

COVID Civic Awards recipients 2021

I was pleased to attend Southwark Cathedral on 4th October to add my congratulations to all those who received COVID Civic Awards for outstanding contributions to the local community during the terrible time of COVID.

Camberwell and Peckham recipients of awards were:

- Andrew Burnett, founder of Nunhead Knocks, a local community group that galvanised volunteers into action to support people in Nunhead and Peckham.
- Miriam Facey, chair of the Rye Hill Tenants and Residents Association, which has done fantastic work for the community during the pandemic.
- Theresa Neary, a headteacher for over 20 years who successfully led the additional challenges of support and teaching for the students throughout the period of COVID lockdown from March 2020 to July 2021.
- Burgess Sports, which during the first lockdown period delivered: 87 online fitness sessions, 62 arts and crafts challenges, family games for 18 weeks, quizzes for 16 weeks, and an Ambassador course where 15 young people studied in ten sets of 2 hour sessions, who then went on to volunteer at the holiday camps.
- London Senior Social, which mobilised transport and organised the resources of Age UK Lambeth & Southwark minibuses to distribute food to older people shielding or self-isolating, distributing 300 hot meals over 4 months.

- Southwark Pensioners Centre, which during the pandemic looked after the elderly residents in the borough. They have kept up community phone calls to people finding out how they are, making sure that they were ok and if they needed anything.
- Peckham Ward Mutual Aid Group, which was an inspirational pop up organisation, with a dedication and collegiate approach.

The Mayor's Discretionary Award 2021 was awarded posthumously to Folajimi Olubunmi-Adewole, who tragically died trying to save someone from drowning on 24 April.



Shared experiences of being women MPs: my joint interview with new Labour MP Kim Leadbeater

We welcomed Kim Leadbeater as the new Labour MP for Batley and Spen. She is the sister of Jo Cox who represented the constituency until she was murdered in 2016. Kim is a remarkable woman and is going to be an outstanding MP and I did an interview with her that you can read [here](#).



Labour Party Conference 2021

I was glad to be able to attend party conference, the first conference Keir Starmer has been able to address in person.



Dylan Tippetts, Labour LGBT+ Southwest Chair



Rachel Reeves, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer



Dulwich Hill and Goose Green branch meeting

On 7th October I spoke about my work on women at the branch meeting of Dulwich Hill and Goose Green, to which members from all Camberwell and Peckham branches were invited to attend.

- The stark disparities in maternal health between black and white women
- the number of forced adoptions that occurred in the 1950s, 60 and 70s

- the treatment of women in prison
- the unacceptable low levels of prosecutions for rape
- the level of impunity for men who commit violence against women
- strategies to combat violence against women
- the need for changes to the law to outlaw street harassment and kerb crawling
- the new trend of men who kill their partners during sex and avoid murder charges, and
- the need for improved police vetting procedures.

I took questions on a range of issues and members shared many of their own experiences of harassment and feeling unsafe.

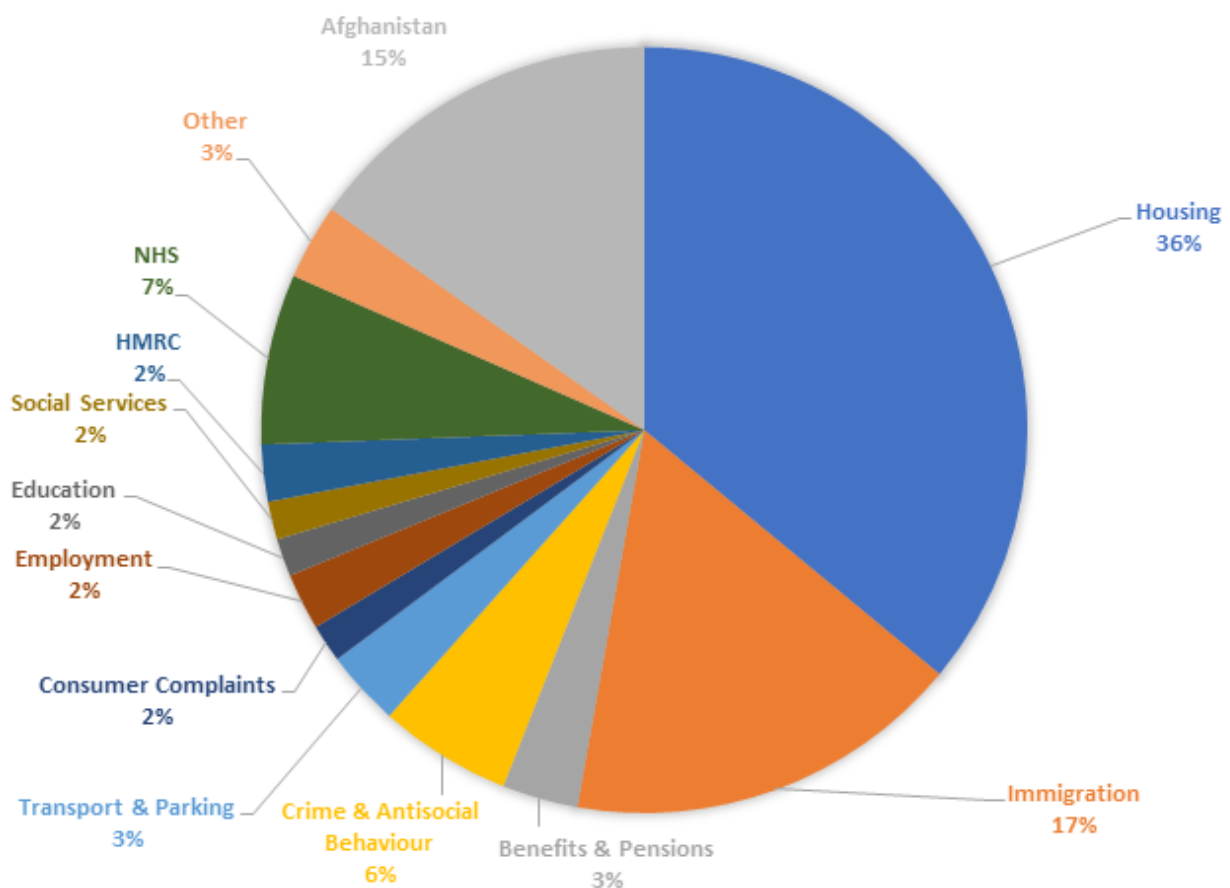
Constituency problems - update

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.

In September I took action on **527** cases.

In September I have recouped **£21,459** for constituents who have requested my assistance. Since the start of 2021, the total recouped is **£60,509.03**. 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.

New cases breakdown – September 2021



Case summaries:

- A man from the Old Kent Road area contacted me for help because he was owed a significant amount of money by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and was in rent arrears with Southwark Council as a result. In 2013 the DWP had moved him from Incapacity Benefit to Employment and Support Allowance, but they did not include the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Severe Disablement Allowance that he should have been receiving due to his health conditions. He contacted the DWP about their error, but whilst they made a partial payment of his underpaid PIP they did not pay him any of his Severe Disablement Allowance. I made urgent enquiries to the DWP on his behalf to get them to rectify this issue. The DWP reviewed his original claim and have now made an arrears payment to my constituent of £21,174.00, and paid money to Southwark Council to cover his rent arrears. I continue to make further enquiries on my constituent's behalf to find out why the original error occurred.
- An 84-year-old man from Peckham who is currently undergoing dialysis treatment for Chronic Kidney Disease at King's College Hospital, and who also has arthritis, Stage 4 bowel cancer, sleep apnoea, and has had COVID-related pneumonia, contacted me to ask for my help regarding his hospital treatment. Due to impaired mobility, my constituent relies on hospital transport for all medical appointments, but his dialysis appointments have twice been moved to Bromley, adding a significant amount of time and hassle to the procedures and negatively impacting his physical health and mental wellbeing. He was recently advised that he would be transferred permanently to Bromley for all future dialysis treatments. I wrote urgently to King's College Hospital and South East London Clinical Commissioning Group asking why my constituent was being moved and to request that they continue to treat him at King's College Hospital instead. They have since agreed to continue treating my constituent at King's College Hospital rather than moving his treatment to Bromley.
- A man from Peckham contacted me with serious concerns about anti-social behaviour in his housing block. Non-residents would regularly enter the block and loiter on the communal stairs and my constituent would often find drug-related paraphernalia and other unsanitary items in the communal areas. He asked for my help to get the Council to install a new secure door entry system in the housing block. I wrote to Southwark Council on his behalf and as a result they have since fixed the communal gate and approved the installation of a new door entry system for the block, on which work is due to commence soon. The Council have also liaised with the community wardens to ensure that the area is monitored and that regular patrols are carried out.
- A Peckham man contacted me because his roof was being damaged by an overgrown tree near his property. The overgrown tree had also become a focal point for fly-tipping, and the dumping of rubbish had caused an infestation of rats and other pests. The leaves and branches from the tree also regularly blocked his gutter. The constituent had previously been unsuccessful in his attempts to resolve this directly with Southwark Council. I wrote to Southwark

Council on his behalf requesting that they address his concerns, and they have now implemented a regular maintenance scheme for the area and have committed to remove the basal growth from around the tree.

- A woman from the Old Kent Road area contacted me because she was owed a consolatory payment from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) after their error resulted in her being underpaid her Universal Credit. She had attempted to resolve this with the DWP previously but had not received a response within the expected timeframe. I wrote to the DWP on her behalf and they have now paid a consolatory payment of £200 into her account and apologised for the delay.
- A woman in Camberwell wrote to me because there had been a serious leak in her kitchen for over a year due to a damaged roof that needed repairing. Previous attempts to fix the roof had failed and the water from the leak had damaged a number of her personal belongings. I wrote to Southwark Council to request that the necessary repairs be carried out urgently. Roofing contractors have now completed the necessary repair works at the property and there have been no further leaks since the work was finished.
- A man living in a one-bedroom flat in Peckham with his wife and four children wrote to me because he was unable to look for a larger, more suitable property due to his bidding account with Southwark Council being suspended. I wrote to Southwark Council to ask why the constituent's account had been suspended and to ask for information about what further support was available to the family. Southwark Council explained that bidding had been paused while the Council considered the family's situation following their submission of a 'change of circumstances' form. They contacted the constituent directly to explain and they have since reopened his bidding account.

In September I received **956** emails from constituents on policy issues covering:

- A Greenpeace campaign asking the Chancellor to kickstart investment in green homes – I support action on this issue
- Asking me to oppose Home Office plans to open a new immigration detention centre for women at Hassockfield in County Durham – I oppose this new centre
- Support for a delay to bounce back loan repayments for 12 months to give local businesses a chance to recover from lockdown – I support a delay
- The Health and Care Bill 2021-22, asking me to oppose the Government's reforms – I oppose the Bill
- To campaign to keep the £20 increase to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit – I support the campaign to keep the £20 uplift
- Safety of women following the sentencing of Wayne Couzens for the murder of Sarah Everard – I actively working on this issue
- To support the "Long Live the Local Pub Campaign", which asks the Government to lower VAT and business rates on pubs – I support an overhaul of business rates
- To stand up for women seeking asylum in the Nationality and Borders Bill – I support the campaign
- To support Afghan refugees – read my Afghanistan report [here](#).

- To ban the sale of fur in the UK – I support the campaign
- To pledge my support to #EndChildFoodPoverty – I support ending child food poverty
- To stand up for reproductive rights following the abortion-ban in Texas – I will always stand up for reproductive rights

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

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)