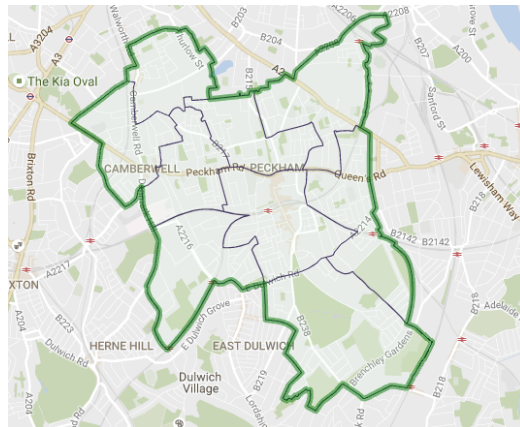


Harriet Harman QC MP

Member of Parliament for Camberwell & Peckham



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Introduction

For the Labour Party in Camberwell and Peckham, the next 12 months will be very different from the last. 2016 has been busy with elections. We had the Mayoral election, then the EU Referendum and then the Labour Leadership election. Next year we will be having no elections and that will give us the opportunity to campaign in every ward to build the support we need to get our councillors re-elected in 2018.

It is always important to have a Labour Councillor on your side, but never more so than when there is a Tory government. And with the leadership election behind us it will be the chance for all members, including the over 2,000 who have joined us since 2015, to be out campaigning together.



People locally will judge us not just by the discussions we have in our ward and in our GC but by our commitment to be out there campaigning on their doorstep, showing our solidarity with them as they face difficult times. And there is every possibility that, with the Government mired in difficulties over Brexit and with our low standing in the opinion polls, The Prime Minister might seek the opportunity of an early General Election. In the meantime the reality of a Tory government continues to press down on people. The NHS always struggles when the Tories are in government. Those on the lowest incomes and in the most marginalised communities always fall further behind. Division and discrimination always grows. People are paying a price for our not winning the 2010 and the 2015 General Elections. We must do all we can to make sure we don't lose a third.

Haniel Harmon

Helping Constituents with their Problems

A major part of my work as MP for Camberwell and Peckham is helping constituents with a wide range of problems. I have a small, dedicated staff to assist me. Since October 2015, I have helped over **3,826** people. Many constituents will have contacted me more than once but this year over **2,020** people have been in touch for the first time.



Casework enables me to help thousands of my constituents as well as keeping me in touch with the everyday, as well as the exceptional, problems they face.

I first started doing advice surgeries with Harry Lamborn, Peckham's MP when I became the candidate in 1981. At that time there was no doorstep campaigning between elections. Then, Harry did the surgeries on a Friday evening in the Town Hall on Peckham Road, with his wife Lil who was his secretary, taking notes. She brought with her to the surgery all his case files, in a big expanding folder. The assumption then was that people could come after their working day was finished.

When I took over in 1982 I held advice surgeries in the Town Hall on a Friday evening. But I then added a Tuesday morning advice surgery because it was hard for people with young children, or the elderly, to come out at night to an evening surgery. Many people didn't have phones at that time in Peckham and many didn't feel confident about writing.

There was no routine door to door campaigning at that time. So the advice surgeries were the most important way for people to see their MP. I had one secretary who typed letters I had drafted by hand or dictated onto a dictaphone.

Over the years since 1982 much has changed both in the way people communicate and the response they want from their MP. And the Town Hall, the venue for my surgeries for more than 2 decades has closed and moved out of the constituency to Tooley Street.

My aim is to ensure that I see my constituents and hear directly from them what their concerns are and that I provide a good service for constituents who have problems they want me to help with. Now, the overwhelming majority of my constituents have mobile phones and email. The patterns that people now work during the week and at weekends have changed so that there is no "normal working day".

Nowadays most people make their first contact with me by email (80%). Of the remainder, most contact my office by phone or by letter. I ensure that every constituent making a casework query receives a reply from me within 10 working days, setting out what I have done, or will do on their behalf.

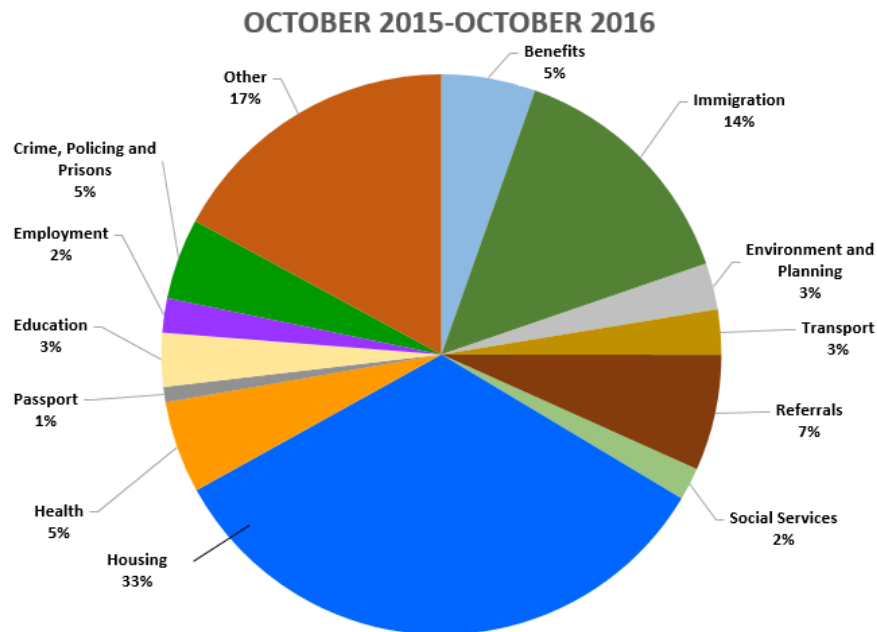
The House of Commons have increased the number of people an MP can employ and instead of one Secretary, I now have one Senior Caseworker and 2 Junior Caseworkers. On average 125 cases a week are dealt with by my casework team. And I go out on the doorstep with the local councillors and the Labour Party on a regular basis. On these campaign days I invariably meet up with people whose cases I am dealing with, I pick up problems from people who would not otherwise come to a surgery, and meet up with people who don't need my help. For people who I need to see because they do not want to, or cannot communicate with me by phone or email, I am able to use Cambridge House premises, which my office relocated to during the campaign period of the 2015 General Election.

The way I do my casework has changed over the years, due to changes in the way people communicate, their working patterns, the increase in the number of staff I'm able to employ and the regular Labour doorstep campaigning. But the objective of my casework hasn't. It remains my responsibility to help people who find that they can't, for whatever reason, sort out a problem themselves and to do so sympathetically, efficiently and effectively.



Casework Issues

People seek my help for many different reasons including housing problems, immigration and visa problems and benefit entitlement.



Often I am able to cut through red tape, challenge an injustice and make progress for a constituent. Here are a just a few examples of casework this year:

A Camberwell resident's redundancy package was reduced from £26,833.33 to the sum of £12,502.38. His health and quality of life deteriorated due to the stress of this situation and financial worries. After my office spoke to his former employer a further payment of £11,796.00 was issued to him.

A mother from Faraday who works part time was being pursued for an overpayment of £23,624.67 in tax credits by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). She was very distressed and did not understand what had caused this overpayment. After I contacted the HMRC they wrote off £21,936.24 and she now only owes £1,123.93 in overpaid tax credits.

Casework issues continued

A Brunswick park resident appealed successfully against the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) decision to place him in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Unfortunately four months after this decision he had still not received the money he was owed from the DWP. After I contacted the DWP on his behalf £2,600 was paid to him within three working days.

A constituent contacted me regarding Southwark Council's proposals to build a vehicle turning point in William Griggs Park. She raised a number of concerns such as the removal of mature trees, the destruction of a conservation area and the increase in pollution from car exhaust fumes. I wrote to the Council and they decided not to implement the proposed park modification because of the concerns raised by my constituent and other residents during consultation.

One of my constituents applied for a passport for his foster son who was due to go abroad on a school trip with his class. After I contacted HM Passport Office to ask for the application to be fast tracked the passport was issued in time and the boy was able to go on the school trip with the rest of his class.

A primary school teacher from Peckham was told she would have to accept a 20% rent increase or find a new property by L&Q Housing Association. This meant she'd have to pay an extra £150 per month for a one bedroom flat. Following my intervention with L&Q they agreed to suspend all rent increases whilst they carry out a review of their approach.





Local Issues

Wandle Housing Association



In April 2016, 85 households who live in Solomon's Passage, overlooking Peckham Rye, heard the devastating news that they all have to leave their homes because of fundamental defects in the blocks built only six years ago. Two blocks will have to be completely refurbished so the residents will have to move out. And two blocks are so badly built they'll have to be demolished.

I met with residents at Solomon's passage to offer my help as they faced an anxious and uncertain future. Following this, Councillor Renata Hamvas and I invited a group of residents to the House of Commons to meet with Wandle's senior team including Chief Executive Tracey Lees and Board Chair, Richard Raeburn to discuss a range of issues including:

- Their support for a new Tenants and Residents Association
- Inviting the Wandle board to visit and meet the residents
- Identifying a senior Wandle employee and Wandle board member to liaise with residents
- Individual contracts for each resident setting out Wandle's commitment to their future housing
- Fair valuations for those in shared-ownership properties and leaseholders
- Compensation for past problems on repair/maintenance
- Full transparency on all documentation and reports (except where between Wandle and their lawyers)

I contacted the Homes and Communities Agency to try and ensure they give any help they can to Wandle as they deal with this unprecedented construction failure and raised the issue with the Housing Minister.

As some of the residents at Solomon's Passage began to make final decisions on their housing future over the summer, they told me communication with Wandle continued to be a problem, so I met with residents again on 30th September and arranged a further meeting between them and Wandle at Rye Hill Tenants & Residents Hall on 20th October. At this meeting residents had the opportunity to put their concerns directly to senior Wandle staff, including Tracey Lees and Newman Francis, who is their appointed Independent Resident Advisor and advocate.

I will continue to work with the residents of Solomon's Passage and Wandle until all residents who have had been shattered by the upheaval are fully settled into their new homes.

The difficulties faced by the Wandle residents demonstrate the chronic lack of council housing, the government squeeze on housing associations and the exorbitant rents and home prices in the private sector. Always when the Tories are in government affordable housing becomes scarcer. The number of people accepted by the local authority as homeless has increased by 69% since 2010, and those who live in rented accommodation now spend on average 68% of their income on rent.

Local Issues

Southern Rail & Govia Thameslink

This year I have been inundated with emails from constituents who are deeply worried about the Southern Rail disruption and the effect this is having on their working & family lives, their childcare arrangements, their finances and safety & overcrowding.

Passengers can't continue to suffer like this. That's why [I've urged the Government to strip Govia Thameslink of the franchise](#), written to the CEO of Govia about their inability to provide a reliable service, and on 13 July I spoke in the Govia Thameslink Rail service debate in the House of Commons:

'I congratulate the hon. Gentleman on securing this debate and I absolutely 100% agree with him on behalf of my constituents that use East Dulwich, Peckham Rye and Queens Road. They will identify completely with the level of total exasperation and frustration. He has diligently gone through all this and has done all the right things, but his constituents' situations are simply getting worse and are set to get worse still, with disruption to family and working life and downright safety issues. I simply lend him my support and say that my constituents are every bit as desperate as his. We have no tube and we have congested roads, so they cannot go by bus. People cannot lead their lives like this. I agree with him that it should be stripped of the franchise'.

You can read the full debate [here](#).

Following reports of dangerous overcrowding at Peckham Rye station last week, I asked the Secretary of State for Transport in a written Parliamentary Question what steps he had taken to improve safety at the station. I await his response.



I will continue to work closely with Helen Hayes MP, Neil Coyle MP, Cllr Peter John and Florence Eshalomi AM to hold the Government to account on these delays and push for an accelerated transfer of Govia Thameslink Greater London services to Transport for London.

Local Issues

Aylesbury Regeneration



For too long tenants on the Aylesbury had to put up with dark walkways, heating breaking down and blocked rubbish chutes and faulty lifts. The Aylesbury redevelopment will provide long overdue new homes, and help the surrounding area including East St market. And the Aylesbury redevelopment is crucial not just to improve the lives of those living on the estate. It is a vital part of the Council's pledge to build new homes which was a central plank of its manifesto in 2014

On 16 September 2016, the Government blocked Southwark Council's Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to buy back properties from the last eight leaseholders in Phase One of the Aylesbury Estate. Despite the fact that the Council has offered each of the remaining resident leaseholders a new home in the same area, rent-free, with a shared equity arrangement.

This was a terrible decision by the Secretary of State and will set the redevelopment back years.

On 27 October 2016 the Council challenged this decision in the courts.

I support the Council's challenge of the decision and their work to continue to negotiate with leaseholders on all phases of the regeneration programme, which is supported by the vast majority of residents on the estate. I hope this can move forward as soon as possible for the tenants and Southwark Council, who have worked for this for so long.

In the Press



southlondonpress

Southwark News

[No one in Southwark should have to wonder where they are going to sleep tonight](#)

[9 Point Plan for Brexit](#)

[Brexit means government must safeguard workers' rights that trade unions fought for](#)

[8 U-turns PM Theresa May should do for women](#)

[We're a stronger Britain staying in Europe](#)

[Labour Mayor for London, Sadiq Khan](#)

[Prostitution can be stopped](#)

[Put passengers first](#)

[DBS delays stop work](#)

[Tories hit poor students](#)

[Call for a review of Southwark Council's compensation policy following repeated heating and hot water disruptions](#)

[Secondary school choice](#)

[Over 6k Southwark students to lose out as Government axes maintenance grants for poorest students](#)

South London Press

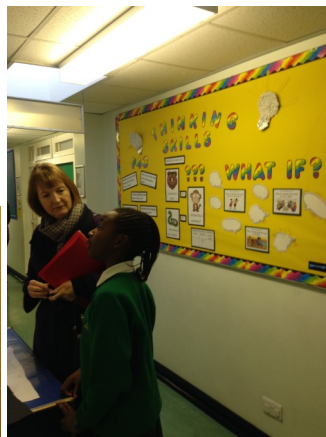
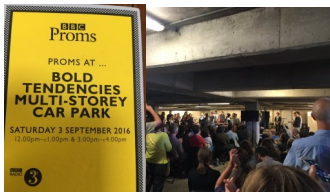
[Why Parliament must be consulted before Article 50 is triggered](#)

[Time to challenge mental health taboo](#)

[Project Fear turns into Project Fact - Government must deliver on pre-Brexit pledges](#)

[Southwark people will be better off in the EU](#)

[Why the Equality Act Matters](#)



In Parliament



Tribute to Jo Cox MP

1974—2016

'I want to add to the very moving tributes to Jo. I got to know Jo after the 2010 general election, when she was elected to chair Labour Women's Network, which she did for four years. She would regularly burst into my office with that extraordinary energy she had and tell me all that they were doing to help Labour women get elected to Parliament to give women a bigger voice in the party. So many of the Labour women here in this Chamber today who were elected in 2015 and who are so deeply mourning Jo's loss were women whom, under Jo's leadership, Labour Women's Network helped and supported.

Not long after she had her son, she came to give me one of those regular briefings, and, of course, the baby came too—I remember it because she literally did not stop kissing him all the way through the meeting. When she had her daughter, she was still there for the women who were trying to become candidates—texting them support, phoning to commiserate if they did not make it, urging them to try again. Her feminism—her solidarity with other women—was a thread that ran through her and all her work in her community and for humanitarian causes. She always said to me emphatically that her children were her priority above everything. But there was no dividing line between Jo's maternal heart and her great political heart. Her children will grow up to know what an amazing woman their mother was. She is such a great loss to our politics; and an irreplaceable loss to her family, to whom we send our heartfelt sympathy.'

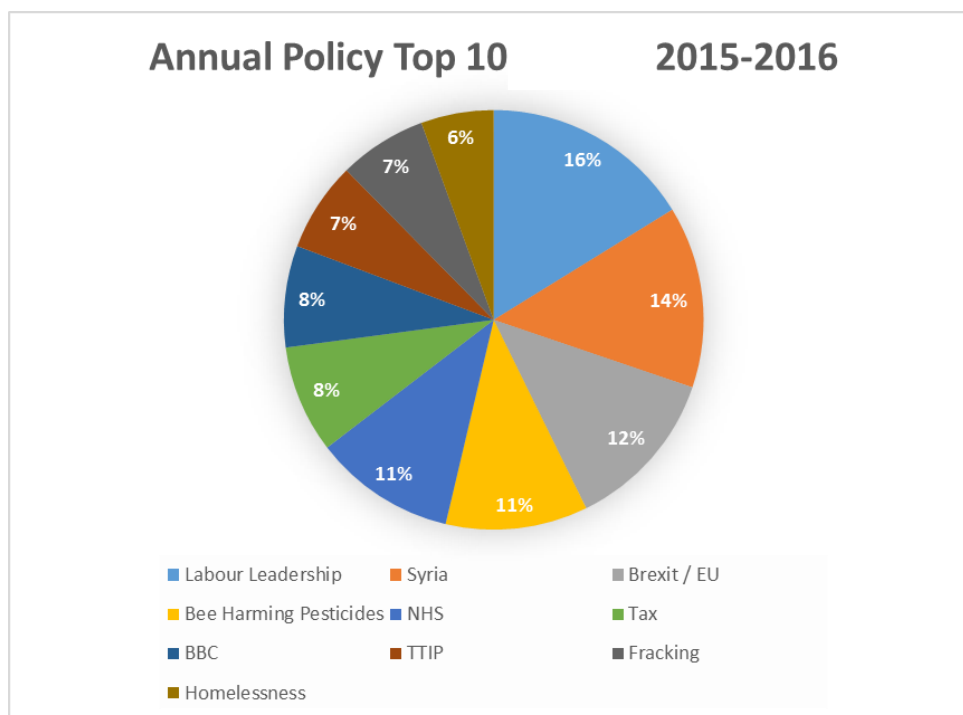


20th June 2016
House of Commons Chamber

In Parliament

Representations from people in Camberwell & Peckham

The letters and emails I have received from constituents over the past year a wide range of issues of concern. Since October 2015, I've received **8,302** enquiries on over 500 separate issues.



- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Labour Leadership—584 | 6. Tax—299 |
| 2. Syria—505 | 7. BBC—282 |
| 3. Brexit/EU—451 | 8. TTIP—249 |
| 4. Bee harming pesticides—395 | 9. Fracking—244 |
| 5. NHS—393 | 10. Homelessness—202 |

Voting in the House of Commons



Though along with my Labour colleagues I voted 128 times to challenge the Government we lost all the votes. It's important for people outside the Commons to see that Labour is on their side and that we are challenging the government. But ultimately even though we vote, those votes make no practical difference as we are not in government and the government actions about which we are objecting just proceed, inflicting damage and suffering and inequality on people in Camberwell and Peckham and in the country as a whole.

All our focus must be on getting back into government so instead of just losing every vote we can replace the Tories and get on with a programme which is progressive and socially just.

Community Pharmacies

Labour has campaigned against the Government's plans to cut community pharmacy funding. I voted to ensure that community pharmacies are protected from service reduction.

Yemen

Voted to support efforts to bring about a cessation of hostilities, provide humanitarian relief in Yemen, condemn bombings of civilian areas, for a UN-led investigation into alleged violations of international humanitarian law in the conflict and for the Government to suspend its support for the Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces in Yemen.

Rights of EU nationals

Voted in favour of this call for the Government to ensure that all nationals from other EU countries who have made the UK their home retain their current rights post-Brexit.

NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans

Labour believes the Government's STP process lacks transparency, and called a vote to make them publish the Plans and provide an adequate consultation period for the public and practitioners to respond. I voted in favour.

NHS Bursaries

Labour called a Commons vote on saving NHS bursaries from Government plans to scrap them for student nurses, midwives and other allied health professionals. I was there to support the motion.

Policing and Crime Bill

Voted in favour of this Bill to make provision for collaboration between emergency services, transform police powers, recognise 17 year olds as children in the criminal justice process and improve the treatment of people with mental health issues in detention.

Housing and Planning Act 2016

Voted against this new legislation as it will result in fewer council homes. Right-to-buy has been extended to housing association tenants and councils are now expected to sell their higher value homes as they become vacant.

Immigration Act 2016

Labour opposed the measures in this legislation that created an offence of illegal working; withdrew support for asylum seekers with children who have exhausted the appeals process; and introduced criminal penalties for landlords renting to those without immigration status. I supported the amendment tabled by my Labour colleagues in the House of Lords to require the Government to relocate and support 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees from Europe.

Chairing the Joint Committee on Human Rights



I became the chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights in November 2015. This is a parliamentary select committee made up of members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In the last year we have:

- [Conducted an inquiry and published a report on the drone killing of a UK citizen in Syria.](#)
- [Investigated the free speech, discrimination and human rights issues in the governments plans for countering "non-violent extremism".](#)
- Demanded tougher safeguards in the government's [Investigatory Powers Bill.](#)
- We are currently awaiting the publication of the government's plans to repeal Labour's Human Rights Act.
- [We are conducting an inquiry into the Human Rights implications of Brexit.](#) When we are no longer in the EU and have to negotiate all our own trade deals we must ensure that the human rights protection clauses which are in all EU trade agreements are not watered down. And we must ensure that the protection the EU gives with rights against discrimination are not diluted.
- [We are inquiring into the record of business on human rights.](#) There is strict protection for consumers in this country and business has to meet high standards. But there is no such protection for workers in countries like Cambodia, Turkey and China who supply UK businesses. Our report will suggest new ways to ensure businesses don't profit from the exploitation of child labour, forced labour and workers who have no trade unions to protect their rights.

As well as Conservatives and a Lib Dem, the Committee includes Labour MP Karen Buck and Labour peers Doreen Lawrence and Margaret Prosser.

Local & National Campaigning

It has been a busy year with local, London-wide and national campaign events.

In October 2015 Octavia Lamb stormed to victory in the South Camberwell by election with 58% of the vote.



In January 2016 Samantha Jury-Dada was elected for Faraday ward with a majority of 817 votes.

Then campaigning to get Labour's candidate Sadiq Khan elected Mayor of London and Florence Eshalomi elected to the Greater London Assembly. Thanks to all those who came out campaigning!



Its always a pleasure to join party members and local councillors on the doorstep campaigning in Camberwell and Peckham. Its important that Labour shows that we are out and about listening to people's concerns - and not just at election time. It enables me to pick up casework problems of people who might not otherwise contact me, to chat to people and to be seen out and about. And it gives me the chance to meet and talk to local party members. If you haven't been out campaigning, do get involved. There's always a good group of people and you won't be left to do it on your own. It's a vital way of keeping in touch with the people we are in Labour to represent.



EU Referendum Campaigning

The experience of referenda all over the world is that they often turn into a vote on something other than the referendum question. But David Cameron ignored that and to pacify his UKIP fringe, complacently agreed to a referendum without considering that there was a risk that it would be lost. It turned into a referendum on immigration. Southwark voted to Remain but many Labour MPs represent constituencies which, along with a narrow majority in the country, voted to Leave. Now we face the difficult task of holding to account the shambles that is the government's approach to Brexit.



During the Referendum campaign I worked with Labour IN including, with the TUC, producing an analysis of how our membership of the EU underpins the rights of women at work, on pregnancy discrimination, equal pay, materiality rights and breastfeeding.

It became clear during the campaign that many Labour supporters either didn't know what Labour's position was on the referendum or that they thought we were for Leave. So to ensure that Labour supporters could see that Labour was for IN I joined Cameron on the Remain battle bus.

As Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights I am now working to try and prevent leaving the EU resulting in a watering down of human rights either here in the UK or abroad.



**BRITAIN
STRONGER
IN EUROPE**



Local Meetings & Events

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the Labour members who've served as Branch Officers over the last 12 months. Without our Branch Chairs and Secretaries the party wouldn't function locally. Your work is vital in getting members together, engaging with your councillors and local campaigns, and discussing policy. Along with Council Leader Peter John, I attend the major civic events in the life of the borough including the Mayor-making, the Annual Civic Service and Remembrance Day.



Mayor making

With Mayor of Southwark Kath Whittam, Southwark Council Leader Peter John & Southwark Aldermen and MPs Helen Hayes and Neil Coyle.



Southwark celebrates its Golden Jubilee at Southwark Cathedral with performances from Kinetika Bloco and The Military Wives Choir (South London).

Remembrance Sunday at Borough War Memorial, SE1



Labour Women

National Labour Women's Conference—Liverpool

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



Tracy Brabin MP for Batley & Spen becomes Labour's 100th woman MP

Campaigning in the Tooting by—
election with Dr Rosena Allin-Khan

A Woman's Work

This year I've written "A Woman's Work" which will be published by Penguin in February 2017. It establishes that Labour is the party of and for women and tells of my work as part of the Women's movement *getting more Labour women into parliament (from 10 in 1983 to 100 in 2015) *getting childcare for working women onto the political agenda and launching the National Childcare Strategy * the National Minimum Wage *doubling maternity pay and leave *transforming the system for tackling domestic violence. It charts how badly Camberwell and Peckham suffered under Tory Governments until we got elected in 1997. It explains how we tackled our problems including by changing our economic policy and expelling Militant. The aim is to generate discussion about how we go forward in the Women's movement and how we need to change Labour so we get elected next time.



A Note of Thanks!

A huge thank you to all our CLP branch officers for the hard work that they've done arranging branch meetings and campaigning sessions throughout the year and despite the weather!

A particular heartfelt thanks to our Chair Jane Bevis who is standing down at this AGM. And thanks to Jo Baxter who was our dedicated CLP member for so many years until she moved to Scotland. And to Katharine Morshead for doing such great work stepping into the breach as our secretary when Jo left. Vice-Chair Fundraising Kate Saunders, Secretary Katharine Morshead, Vice-Chair Membership Michael Situ, Treasurer Laura Alozie, Equalities Officer Catherine Rose, Women's Officer Ellie Cumbo, Campaign Organiser Mark Williams, IT/Training officer Peter Wells-Thorpe, Auditor Sunny Lambe, Auditor Gareth Myton.

And it's been a real privilege to work throughout the year with all Camberwell & Peckham's councillors:

Cllrs Barrie Hargrove, Cleo Soanes and Johnson Situ in Peckham
Cllrs Lorraine Lauder, Paul Fleming and Samantha Jury-Dada in Faraday
Cllrs Dora Dixon-Fyle, Tom Flynn and Kieron Williams in Camberwell Green
Cllrs Richard Livingstone, Michael Situ and Evelyn Akoto in Livesey
Cllrs Fiona Colley, Sunil Chopra and Sandra Rhule in Nunhead
Cllrs Ian Wingfield, Radha Burgess and Mark Williams in Brunswick Park
Cllrs Peter John, Sarah King and Octavia Lamb in South Camberwell
Cllrs Jasmine Ali, Nick Dolezal and Jamille Mohammed in The Lane
Cllrs Gavin Edwards, Renata Hamvas and Vikki Mills in Peckham Rye



I'd like to thank my dedicated team of caseworkers Mariam Dankwa, Sham Tsegai and Warda Hassan who are caring and efficient in dealing with one of the biggest caseloads of any MP, my parliamentary assistant Rachel Smethers and Clare Gosbee for her terrific leadership of the team and support for all my work.

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