

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

## **April and May Report**

**26<sup>th</sup> May 2022**



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 April and May report 2022 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.

*Haniel Hamman*

## **Supporting the community following tragic killings in Bermondsey**



On 25<sup>th</sup> April we all heard of the terrible killings of Samantha Drummonds, 27, her mother Tanysha Drummonds, 45, her grandmother Dolet Hill, 64, and Dolet's husband Denton Burke, 68, on Delaford Road. I attended the scene on the same day along with Old Kent Road Councillors Evelyn Akoto, Richard Livingstone and Michael Situ.



All my deepest sympathies are with the family and friends of the victims and my thoughts are with the shocked residents of the peaceful neighbourhood. I have liaised closely with the police. If you have any information please get in touch with the police (it can be done anonymously).

## **Thank you Eleanor Kelly**

Thank you to Eleanor Kelly who has stepped down as Chief Executive of Southwark Council after over a decade in the role. Eleanor first joined Southwark Council in 2006 as Deputy Chief Executive and became the Chief Executive in 2011.

I want to pay tribute to Eleanor for her dedication to her work in Southwark and thank her for the experience, professionalism and competence that she brought to the role. I appreciated being able to work with her and wish her all the best for the future. I look forward to working with her successor.



## Lords Court – Nunhead and Queen’s Road

I continue to demand answers from Peabody and the police and to provide assistance to residents of Lords Court following the tragic discovery of the body of Ms Sheila Seleokane in Flat 16, Lords Court, on 18<sup>th</sup> February. It appears she had been dead for many months.

The report commissioned by Peabody into their handling of the situation was due around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April. This is now 5 weeks overdue and I am pressing Peabody over this delay.



*With Cllrs Sunil Chopra, Stephanie Cryan and Evelyn Akoto*

An inquest into Ms Seleokane’s death will be taking place. Those who knew Ms Seleokane and would like to make a statement to the court are encouraged to do so.

Residents deserve answers and lessons must be learned to ensure that this deeply tragic situation is never repeated.



Harriet Harman  
@HarrietHarman

Such impressive, innovative leadership from @MayorofLondon on hidden problem of child/parent violence. 🙌 to all involved esp parents at launch of research @peckhamlevels @MerrillDarren



concerns so families can receive the support they need. You can read the research [here](#).

## ... Launch of research on child/parent domestic violence with Mayor of London Sadiq Khan at Peckham Levels

On 12<sup>th</sup> April I attended the launch by the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan of research carried out by London’s Violence Reduction Unit into child-to-parent violence, to better understand and tackle the causes of violence. The research found that at least 40% of all child-to-parent violence goes unreported. This is something that needs to change. All Londoners should feel confident raising



## The Cost of Living Crisis

*"The cost of living crisis" is not just a political phrase but something that is hitting people really hard. And the worrying thing is that, without government action,*

*the worst is yet to come.*

*There are many elements squeezing people's finances but the major problems are energy costs, food prices, petrol prices and general inflation which is seeing all prices increase.*

*Heating, hot water and gas or electric for cooking is not a luxury, it's a necessity. So with energy prices going up by 52% in February, people are finding that what would normally be a manageable bill is blowing a hole in their finances. This leaves people less money for food which, in turn is soaring in price. At 9% inflation is at its highest level in 40 years. And that means less money for everything at a time when just about all costs are going through the roof.*

*The price increases on fuel have come from the worldwide increase in prices which have been driven even higher by the need to impose sanctions on Russian and stop using their gas supply. The increase in food costs have been driven by the rise in the costs of production, particularly energy and the loss of production from Ukraine.*

*While it's not the Government's fault that prices have risen, it is their responsibility to protect people from it.*

*Russia's dreadful invasion of Ukraine has caused a spike in energy costs and it hits hardest at those who, as a result of this government's policies, were already only just managing.*

*The Government had cut £20 from weekly benefit payments. They should immediately reverse that cut in the face of the price increases. The Government trumpet the low unemployment levels but the grim reality is that for many people even having a job and working hard does not enable them to pay the bill, especially with the increase in National Insurance that the Government has imposed. They should reverse that immediately. It was shocking to hear government minister Rachel Maclean patronisingly lecture people to get a better job or work longer hours as if it's their own fault that they can't make ends meet.*

*The Government says that economic growth will sort the situation out. But there are 2 problems with this. Firstly, thanks to the Government's failures in economic policy, the economy is shrinking, not growing, and is even teetering on the edge of recession. And secondly, even if the economy bucks the trend and starts to grow, it will come too late. People who are struggling need help right now.*

*Labour has urged the Government to give help with bills to everyone but extra help to those on lowest incomes. They could do that immediately by putting a windfall levy on the windfall profits of the energy companies, whose profits have soared because of the price increases. It's obscene that their profits are soaring while people struggle to pay the bills. They can afford to pay a windfall levy, as the energy companies themselves are now acknowledging. The Government should do it now.*

*The fundamental problem is that thanks to the Government's unfair policies, there are too many people who just can't withstand these massive price increases. We need immediate action to help them but for the future we need to get rid of this government and have instead a Labour government who will give everyone a fair chance for a decent standard of living.*



## Stamping out misogyny in the Houses of Parliament



On 24<sup>th</sup> April the Mail on Sunday published an article based on claims by Conservative MPs that the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party Angela Rayner MP was trying to distract the Prime Minister during PMQs through a “‘Basic Instinct’ ploy”. It is yet another example of the misogyny that is rife in Westminster.

This was followed by the revelation that Neil Parish, the former Conservative MP for Tiverton and Honiton, had watched porn while sitting in a debate in the House of Commons. This marked a new low for the House of Commons. I called for him to resign immediately rather than wait for an investigation process. He eventually resigned on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

It's not all men in the House of Commons who are doing it, but all women have experienced misogyny. There's always been a male impunity for misogyny and now we're calling time on it. I have called for the Committee on Standards to make misogynist, racist and homophobic language a specific breach of the MPs' code of conduct. This would then allow an inquiry by the Standards Commissioner, resulting in a suspension of an MP where appropriate.

## Government plans to replace the Human Rights Act will weaken protection of those rights

On 13<sup>th</sup> April the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR), which I chair, published its report into the Government's proposals to replace the Human Rights Act with a 'British' Bill of Rights. The JCHR found that these proposals would cause confusion and result in more cases being sent to the European Court of Human Rights. It also found that attempts to strengthen freedom of speech could undermine the enforcement of other rights. At present, freedom of expression is protected and given proper balance with other rights that are also important.

The Government's case that human rights legislation is in serious need of reform is not proven. There is nothing in their plans that would serve to strengthen the protections we currently have and there is much that would weaken them. The Government is purporting to solve non-existent



problems and offering solutions that would only cause confusion and detriment to those who need their rights protecting.

If the Government wanted to strengthen human rights they would improve how they are respected in general, improve education so that everyone knows their rights and improve access to the courts for those needing to enforce them.

You can read the JCHR's report [here](#).

The JCHR continued its inquiry into the Human Rights Act reform on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, when it took evidence from witnesses including the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission on the impact of reforms on the devolved administrations. You can watch the session [here](#).



Watch our live session here: [parliamentlive.tv/event/index/43...](https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/43...)



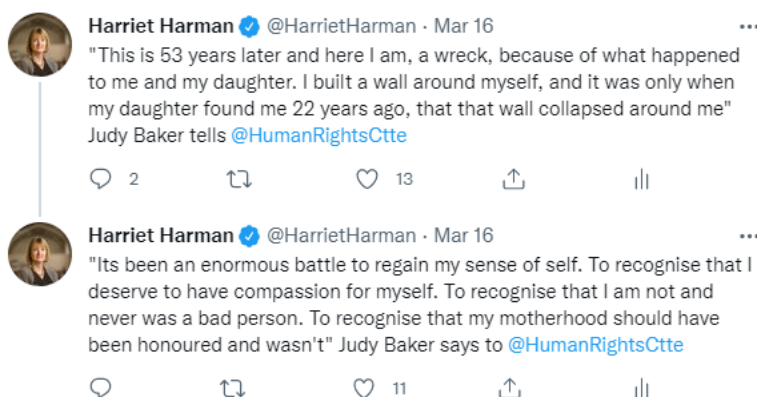
## Hearing from mothers and children affected by forced adoption

Our human rights include the right to family life and it's hard to think of a more important right than that of a child to be with its mother and a mother to be with her child. Yet between 1949 and 1976, hundreds of thousands of babies were taken from their mothers and placed for adoption for no more reason than that their mother was unmarried. Now these mothers and their children are talking about the enduring pain arising out of what was done to them.

The Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) is continuing its inquiry into the experiences of mothers and children who were affected by forced adoption in

the UK in the 1950s, '60s and '70s and on 16<sup>th</sup> April the committee heard directly from mothers and adopted people. The session gave the JCHR an opportunity to hear about the experience of those affected and how their human rights as we understand them today were violated. With this evidence session the JCHR ensured that both Parliament and the public more widely hear from those affected and consider what should be done to recognise and address the pain and trauma that was inflicted on them.

As part of the inquiry, on 27<sup>th</sup> April I hosted a roundtable to hear from mothers whose babies were taken away for adoption in the 1950s, 60s and early 70s, from the people who were adopted and from others with experience of adoption in that period,



such as adoptive parents and social workers. The discussion was conducted in part in small groups, to allow individuals to describe their own experiences.

The Committee will produce a report by the summer on the findings of its inquiry and you can find more information about the inquiry [here](#)

## Hearing from the Secretary of State Nadhim Zahawi MP

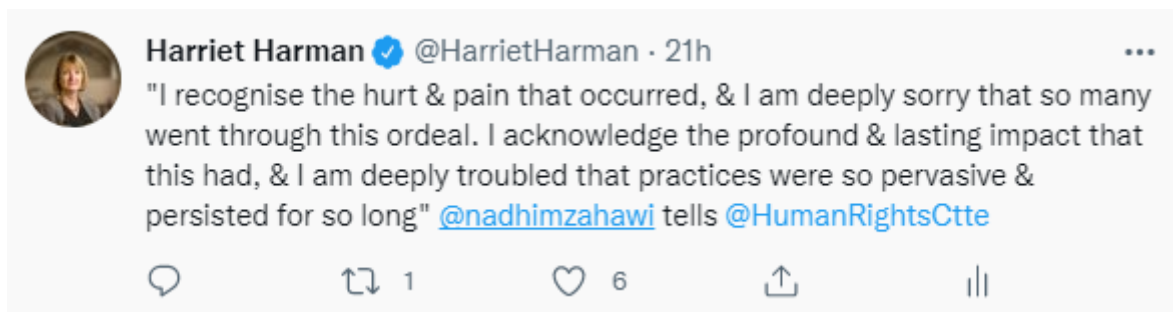


On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May the Joint Committee on Human Rights took evidence from the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi MP, who is responsible for adoption.



This was an opportunity for the Government to respond directly to our inquiry and the evidence we have received so far. The Secretary of State acknowledged that none of the mothers were given a choice to keep their babies and he recognised the hurt and pain that occurred because of it. He expressed regret for what happened and said he was sorry that the mothers and their children had gone through such an ordeal.

You can watch the session [here](#).



## Questioning the Care Home Minister on human rights in care settings

On 18<sup>th</sup> May the Joint Committee on Human Rights took evidence from the care minister, Gillian Keegan MP. The session was an opportunity for the Committee to question the minister on a range of issues relating to human rights in care settings. This included the use of Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation notices, poor use of treatment escalation plans, over-medication, and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.



The committee also questioned the Minister about what she was doing to guarantee visiting rights for the families of care home residents and ensure that there is no repeat of the blanket bans implemented



during the Covid-19 pandemic. Family visits are not optional, they are absolutely essential for the quality of life of people in care homes.

You can watch the session [here](#) and you can read more about the committee's inquiry into human rights in care settings [here](#).

## Challenging the Human Rights breaches in the Government's Asylum Partnership with Rwanda

Following the announcement that the Government will send refugees seeking asylum in the UK to Rwanda, I have written as Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights to the Home Secretary requesting answers to the many concerns that we have about the Government's policy breaching human rights law. We plan to hold an oral evidence session on this issue on 8<sup>th</sup> June. You can read my letter below and read about the committee's work [here](#). You can read the Home Secretary's response [here](#).

*Dear Home Secretary,*

*I am writing with questions regarding the Government's "Asylum Partnership Arrangement" with Rwanda, which will provide a mechanism for the relocation of refugees from the UK to Rwanda for the purpose of processing their asylum claims and settling or removing them thereafter.*

### **The Government's legal obligations**

*Under the Refugee Convention, it is unlawful for the UK to expel or return a refugee to a country where his or her life or freedom would be threatened on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. According to the UN High Commissioner on Refugees, "in order to give effect to their obligations under the 1951 Convention, States are required to grant individuals seeking asylum access to their territory and to fair and efficient asylum procedures." The obligations under the Refugee Convention are binding upon the UK as a matter of international law and must be implemented in good faith.*

*The removal of a refugee to a third country would violate the UK's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) if there is a real risk that the refugee will face harm amounting to a violation of the right to life, torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, forced labour or slavery, or a flagrant violation of the right to a fair trial or the right to liberty, or any other Convention right. Article 14 prohibits discrimination in the enjoyment of other Convention rights, and may be engaged by any policies that apply different standards or outcomes to different categories of asylum seeker. We therefore have questions regarding the removal of refugees to Rwanda.*

### **Human rights analysis**





*We note that there has been no detailed human rights analysis published on this partnership arrangement by the Government although the Memorandum of Understanding does require Rwanda to comply with the Refugee Convention and international rights standards. We also note that the Government has expressed concerns about Rwanda's "continued restrictions to civil and political rights and media freedom" and urged Rwanda to conduct "transparent, credible and independent investigations into allegations of extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody, enforced disappearances and torture, and bring perpetrators to justice".*

*Please can you provide us with a human rights analysis which should address the following questions:*

- How does a policy by which asylum seekers, who have made their way to the UK, are sent to Rwanda without having their claim considered amount to implementation of the Refugee Convention in good faith?*
- On what basis have you determined that Rwanda is a safe place for refugees, including for LGBTI refugees? In particular, is there a risk of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 3)? Do you consider that Rwanda's refusal to cooperate with the UN Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture indicates any problems with adequately assessing this risk?*
- How have you determined that removal of refugees to Rwanda will not risk "flagrant" violations of Convention rights other than Article 3?*
- How will you individually assess refugees to identify whether they will be safe once removed to Rwanda?*
- Which refugees will be relocated to Rwanda under this arrangement and which will remain in the UK? How does this differential treatment accord with the Government's obligations to ensure that treatment is neither directly nor indirectly discriminatory?*
- If Rwanda were to breach its obligations under the Memorandum of Understanding, particularly in relation to violations of human rights, what would be the consequences? What recourse would be available to individuals who have suffered a violation of the rights guaranteed under this agreement?*
- Can you confirm that the policy will not apply to children and how you will determine whether an applicant is or is not a child for the purpose? Can you be sure that the policy meets the UK's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?*
- What safeguards are in place to ensure that Rwanda will conduct a fair and efficient assessment of asylum applications with appropriate safeguards such as free legal representation?*

*Given the Asylum Partnership Arrangement has taken immediate effect, we would be grateful for a response to these questions by Wednesday 18th May 2022.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Harriet Harman*

## Interviewing Women MPs from other countries

While parliaments around the world are still male-dominated there are now women MPs in every parliament in the world. Despite very different contexts, our objectives for progressive change for women in our respective countries are so

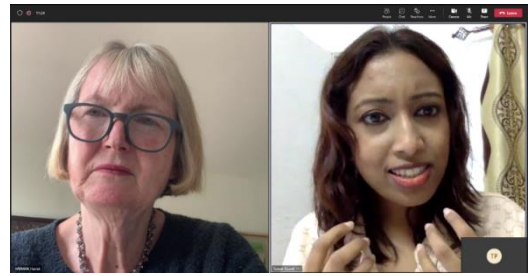


similar. I'm interviewing women from parliaments around the world to hear from them about why they decided to enter politics, how they got there and what they hope to achieve.

Over the past few weeks, I've interviewed:

- The Bahamas - Patricia Ann Deveau MP,
- Nigeria - Betty Apiafi MP
- Mauritius - Teenah Jutton MP
- Saudi Arabia - Dr Aliaa Al Dahlawi MP
- Malaysia - Fuziah Salleh MP

I have more interviews planned for the coming weeks.



## Congratulations to all elected Southwark Labour Councillors

The recent local elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 saw Southwark Labour win 52 out of 63 council seats, gaining 3 from the Liberal Democrats. This was a huge success and my congratulations on their elections to:

### Camberwell Green

- Suzanne Iquo Abachor
- Dora Dixon-Fyle
- Kieron Joseph Williams

- Catherine Ann Rose
- Andy Simmons

### Champion Hill

- Esme Hicks
- Sarah Eve King

### Faraday

- Sam Foster
- Kezia Harper
- Kimberly Natasha McIntosh

### Chaucer

- Helen Claire Dennis
- Laura Anne Johnson
- Joseph Vambe

### Goose Green

- James Robert McAsh
- Portia Mwangangye
- Charlie Smith

### Dulwich Hill

- Maggie Browning
- Jon Hartley

### London Bridge and West Bermondsey

- Sunil Chopra
- Sam Dalton
- Emily Alice Hickson

### Dulwich Village

- Richard Michael Leeming
- Margy Newens

### Newington

- John Seymour Batteson
- Natasha Saviour Ennin
- Alice Macdonald

### Dulwich Wood

### **North Walworth**

- Naima Hussein Ali
- Darren James Merrill
- Martin Luther Seaton

### **Nunhead and Queen's Road**

- Gavin James Edwards
- Reginald Oluwatomi Aku Popoola
- Sandra Dean Rhule

### **Old Kent Road**

- Evelyn Osei Akoto
- Richard John Livingstone
- Michael Kayode Situ

### **Peckham**

- Leona Sabina Emmanuel
- Barrie John Hargrove
- Cleo Soanes

### **Peckham Rye**

- Renata Hamvas
- Victoria Milles

### **Rotherhithe**

- Stephanie Cryan
- Bethan Roberts
- Kath Whittam

### **Rye Lane**

- Jasmine Ali
- Esme Dobson
- Chloe Tomlinson

### **South Bermondsey**

- Cassandra Brown
- Sunny Adegboyega Lambe
- Leo Max Pollak

### **St Giles**

- Ellie Cumbo
- Jason Ochere
- Robert Ian Wingfield

My congratulations also to the new Southwark Cabinet and to Sunil Chopra and Michael Situ on their appointments as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Southwark.

**Southwark Labour**

### **Cabinet & Deputy Cabinet**

#### **Cabinet**

- Cllr Jasmine Ali - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Education
- Cllr Evelyn Akoto - Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing
- Cllr Stephanie Cryan - Cabinet Member for Finance, Democracy & Digital
- Cllr Helen Dennis - Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development
- Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle - Cabinet Member for Community Safety
- Cllr Alice Macdonald - Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure
- Cllr Darren Merrill - Cabinet Member for Council Homes & Homelessness
- Cllr Catherine Rose - Cabinet Member for Parks, Streets & Clean Air
- Cllr Martin Seaton - Cabinet Member for Jobs, Business & Town Centres

#### **Deputy Cabinet**

- Cllr John Batteson - Deputy Cabinet Member for Employment
- Cllr Natasha Ennin - Deputy Cabinet Member for Diversity
- Cllr Kimberly McIntosh - Deputy Cabinet Member for Financial Support
- Cllr Portia Mwangangye - Deputy Cabinet Member for Young People

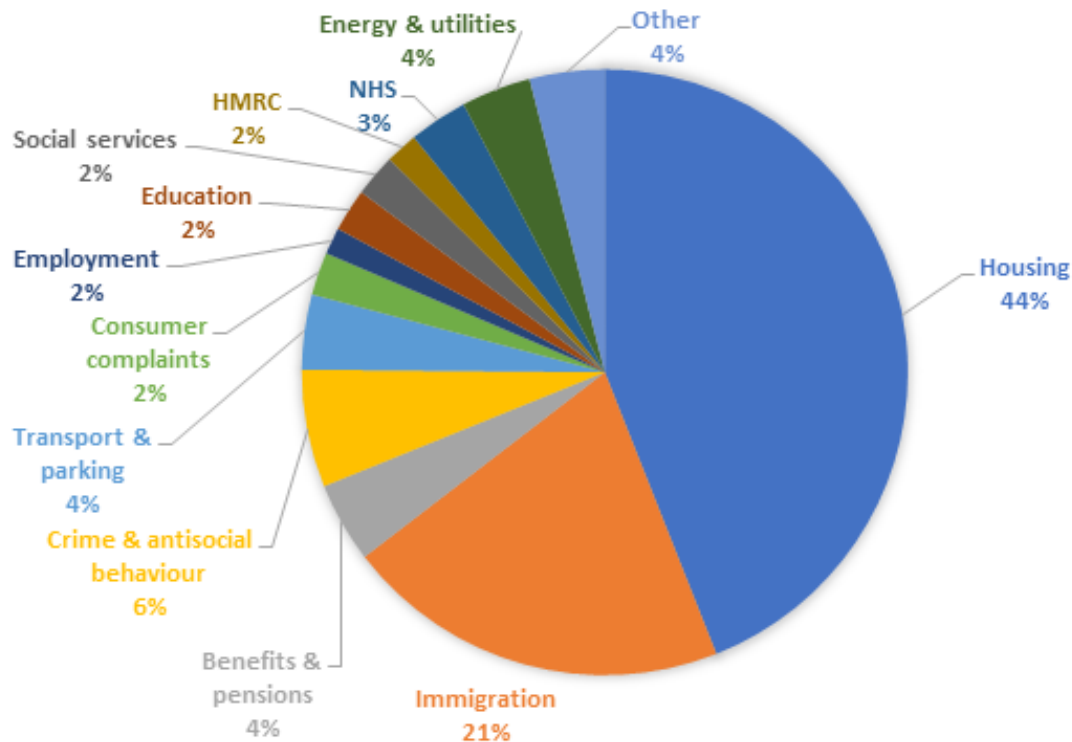


### **Constituency problems - update**



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 – March and April 2022



In March and April I took action on **1,132** cases. Since the start of 2022, I have taken action on **2,133** cases.

In March and April I recouped **£645** for constituents. Since the start of 2022, the total I have recouped for constituents is **£2,145**. This includes underpaid benefit payments, coronavirus business grants for local business owners, waived HMRC penalties and compensation for errors and delays on action by housing associations and by the Home Office.

#### Case summaries:

- I was contacted by the parents of a seven-year-old autistic child living in East Dulwich who were struggling to get the extra education support their child required due to his difficulties with emotional regulation and speech. The family had recently returned from Singapore to live in the UK and their son had been out of school for over 5 months. Although Southwark Council were aware of this situation and a learning plan was under consideration, the child had been rejected by 3 mainstream schools as they said they were unable to meet his needs. A school in Peckham had been recommended to the family, but the school had said that they were unable to consider the child without Council approval. I made several enquiries to the Council requesting information about what steps it was taking to ensure that my constituents' child was given a place

at a suitable school as soon as possible. I received a response confirming that the child has now received a place at the school in Peckham that was able to provide him with the support he requires and he is now in school.

- A leaseholder in a Southwark Council freehold block from Old Kent Road had previously contacted me to ask for help to resolve a number of serious issues she was experiencing with her home, including a gas leak and severe damp. After making enquiries to Southwark Council and her insurer, Zurich Insurance Group, both agencies took steps to resolve the constituent's issues and provided her with compensation. However, she subsequently informed me that damp had reappeared in her home. I therefore made further enquiries to both Southwark Council and Zurich Insurance Group requesting that they finally resolve this ongoing issue. The constituent has now informed me that the repairs have been carried out and she was offered a further £300 compensation.
- I was contacted by an Immigration Advisor at the Cardinal Hume Centre on behalf of a constituent. The constituent, who was born in Nigeria, was initially granted 30 months Leave to Remain in the UK in 2017 before being granted Further Leave to Remain in 2020. She is currently studying Social Policy at the University of Birmingham but had been unable to get a student loan due to her immigration status, putting her education at risk. I urgently wrote to the Student Loans Company Ltd and asked for clarity about whether my constituent was eligible to receive student finance. I received a response confirming her eligibility for a loan. Due to the error on their part, the Student Loans Company also offered my constituent an ex-gratia payment of £50 to compensate for the stress and inconvenience caused by their handling of the matter. The constituent accepted their payment and has confirmed that she now has access to a student loan and can therefore continue her studies.
- A man living in St Giles contacted me as he was yet to receive a decision on the Naturalisation Application that he had submitted to the Home Office in September 2021. I wrote to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) requesting an update on the progress of the application and asking them to let me know when a decision was expected. UKVI informed me that the application had not been processed within their published six-month service standard as it was undergoing a higher level of scrutiny than usual and that the individual would be informed of any delays. I shared this response with the constituent who appreciated the additional clarity on his application.
- A woman from Champion Hill wrote to me after struggling to renew her 60+ London Oyster photocard. The renewal process required her to set up an online Transport for London (TfL) account and despite her numerous attempts she had been unable to do so and was therefore unable to renew her photocard. She had contacted TfL on several occasions about this, providing them with copies of all relevant correspondence proving her eligibility for the photocard but she only received holding responses from TfL. I wrote to TfL on her behalf to ask what they could do to help her renew her 60+ London Oyster photocard. TfL

responded to tell me that they have issued her a new 60+ London Oyster photocard, which she has now received.

- A Council tenant from Walworth contacted me after experiencing multiple housing and disrepair issues for many years. The toilet in her property had been faulty for more than 2 weeks, forcing her and her daughter to use their neighbour's toilet instead, there was dirty water trapped underneath the flooring in her bathroom omitting a foul odour, the stairs inside her property were broken and some of her windows had developed damp. She told me how her disrepair issues had been harming her family's mental health, especially given that she suffers from sickle cell disease. My constituent contacted Southwark Council about this matter but had not yet received a satisfactory response to the issues. I wrote to Southwark Council to request that they urgently undertake the necessary permanent repairs. As a result, the Council have now carried out the repairs to the faulty toilet and have arranged for the flooring, stairs and damp windows to all be inspected. I remain in contact with my constituent to ensure that they are fixed.
- A constituent contacted me on behalf of her mother, who is housebound and lives on the first floor of a sheltered housing accommodation. Her mother suffers from arthritis, blood clots and curvature of her back and struggles to get up the stairs to her property. My constituent wanted her mother to be moved from her room on the first floor to a room on the ground floor and explained that there were three rooms on the ground floor of the unit that were available for her mother to use. I wrote to Southwark Council on her behalf to ask for her mother to be moved to the ground floor of the sheltered housing accommodation and following my correspondence the daughter has confirmed to me that her mother has been successfully moved to the ground floor.
- A man from Rye Lane wrote to me in December 2021 about a tree in his neighbour's garden that was blocking sunlight from reaching his house and other houses in the surrounding area. He asked for my help to get Southwark Council to trim the tree in question as soon as possible, as he had contacted them on numerous occasions since February 2021 but had yet to receive a substantive response, leaving him frustrated about the lack of action. I wrote to Southwark Council to ask them to outline what actions they could take to resolve the issues caused by the tree. Southwark Council confirmed to me that although they will not cut the upper part of the tree, contractors visited the site and plan to remove all low branches up to 5.4m above the ground.
- A woman from Queen's Road asked for my assistance with her daughter's severely delayed passport application. When my constituent applied for her daughter's passport in early April, she was told that she would have to wait 3 weeks for the passport to arrive, but 4 weeks later, having not received her passport, she was told that the process could take up to 10 weeks. In order for her daughter to be able to travel abroad with the family on a planned trip in mid-May my constituent paid to have the application fast-tracked and was assured that she would receive an outcome on the application within 48 hours. However after 48 hours she had not received any response from Home Office. I wrote urgently to the Home Office on her behalf to ask them to provide



information on the progress of her daughter's passport application and let me know when they could expect to receive the passport. Following my inquiry my constituent has now received her daughter's passport in time for them to travel.

- A single mother from Camberwell requested my help with her housing situation after she and her two daughters had been evicted from their privately rented flat. When the family was first evicted, my constituent contacted Southwark Council for assistance and was provided with temporary accommodation in East London. She was understandably unhappy about being housed there as her family, her friends, her workplace and her daughters' schools are all in Camberwell. She had also recently fractured her leg, meaning that she was experiencing difficulties in moving around. She contacted Southwark Council about the unsuitability of her temporary accommodation but did not receive a satisfactory response. I wrote to Southwark Council on her behalf to ask whether her family could be moved into suitable council accommodation closer to Camberwell. The Council have agreed to move her back to Southwark as soon as possible and I am keeping in touch with her to ensure that the new property is suitable for her and her family.
- A woman contacted me to share her safety concerns after her eleven-year-old son had tripped on a tree stump by Peckham Rye Park and fallen face first onto the pavement, unfortunately knocking out his front teeth and requiring a visit to hospital. I raised this issue with Southwark Council on her behalf and requested that they remove the tree stump to prevent any further accidents. The Council have informed me that the removal of the stump has been arranged and that they are considering a personal injury claim submitted by my constituent on behalf of her son. I shared this response with my constituent, who let me know that her son is still undergoing treatment but is recovering well.
- I was previously contacted in March by a Nunhead man who informed me that a swastika had been spray-painted onto a tree outside Ivydale Primary School. I immediately contacted the Council to ask for the graffiti to be removed as soon as possible and informed the Borough Commander of Southwark and Lambeth Police. That same day the Council removed the horrible graffiti and the police confirmed that they would be investigating. In early May I was notified that offensive graffiti on Ivydale Road had reappeared. I again wrote urgently to Southwark Council and the police. The graffiti was swiftly removed by the Council again and the police have provided me with a full outline of the action they will be taking on this matter. This includes contacting local community groups and faith groups, local School Safeguarding leads and providing reassurance patrols in the following weeks.
- A man from Rye Lane contacted me about severe delays with his provisional driving licence application. He had applied for a provisional driving licence in November 2021 but as of April 2022 had still not received the licence. I wrote to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) requesting a report into the progress of my constituent's application and when he could expect to receive his provisional licence. Following my inquiry, the DVLA have now issued the licence to my constituent.

In March and April I received **2,067** emails from constituents on policy issues including:

- The need for a Green New Deal - I agree that we need urgent action to avoid climate catastrophe
- Concern over end to free Covid testing – I share concerns about the end of free Covid testing
- The need to protect people from energy price rises – I agree we must protect people from energy price rises
- Government should do more for refugees fleeing Ukraine conflict – I agree the Government should do more for refugees fleeing all conflicts
- Vote against Government amendment that changes the cap on lifetime contribution to social care costs - I voted against the amendment
- Support Lords' amendments to the Nationality and Borders Bill to open safe routes and protect refugees – I supported the amendments
- Telemedical abortion care – I supported making telemedical abortion care permanent
- Make public sexual harassment a crime – I support making public sexual harassment a crime
- Stop the Government's plan to send refugees to Rwanda – I strongly disagree with the Government's policy
- Transition the UK's energy to clean, cheap wind power – I agree we need to more than double our current onshore wind capacity
- Deliver a rapid and fair transition to renewables – I agree we need to transition quickly to renewables
- Support the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill – I welcome and support this legislation
- Support the ban on conversion therapy – I completely agree that LGBT+ conversion therapies should be banned urgently
- Stop Channel 4 privatisation – I disagree with the privatisation of Channel 4
- Support the reform of disability benefit assessments – I agree that there are fundamental problems with how Work Capability assessments operate
- Call on the Government to stop arming Israel – I have supported calls for the Government to examine the risks involved in any arms sales to Israel

## Help and Support

### Concerned about British nationals who need assistance in Ukraine?

Consular support is still available to British nationals through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office helpline (open 24 hours, 7 days a week) on:

**+380 44 490 3660** (from Ukraine)

**+44 (0) 1908 516666** (from the UK)

**[Click here for UK Government advice about the situation in Ukraine.](#)**

### Concerned about non-British family members in Ukraine?

The British Government has announced that British nationals and people of any nationality settled in the UK will be supported to bring family members to the UK. This includes immediate family members (under Family Migration visas) as well as parents, grandparents, adult children and siblings (under the Ukraine Family Scheme).

To check your eligibility and begin the application call the helpline (open 24 hours, 7 days a week) on:

From Ukraine: **+44 808 164 8810** – select option 1

From the UK: **0808 164 8810** if you are in the UK – select option 1

**Find further information on UK Government guidance support to Ukrainian nationals and their families.**

### **Concerned as a Ukrainian national in the UK?**

The Home Office has agreed some temporary concessions to support Ukrainian nationals currently in the UK who are now unable to return when their existing visa expires.

If you are in the UK and need assistance, contact UKVI on:

**0808 164 8810** – select option 2

Monday to Thursday (excluding bank holidays), 9am to 4:45pm.

Friday (excluding bank holidays), 9am to 4:30pm.

**Find further information on UK Government guidance support to Ukrainian nationals and their families.**

### **Need legal advice?**

The Ukraine Advice Project UK offers free legal advice on UK immigration, visas and asylum by qualified legal advisors for Ukrainians affected by the crisis.

Send details of your circumstances and the advice you need to:  
[ukraine@freemovement.org.uk](mailto:ukraine@freemovement.org.uk)

Find further information from **Ukraine Advice Project UK**

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
- [The Nest](#) - 020 8138 1805

### **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](mailto:harriet.harman.mp@parliament.uk)  
[www.harrietharman.org.uk](http://www.harrietharman.org.uk)  
@harrietharman

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