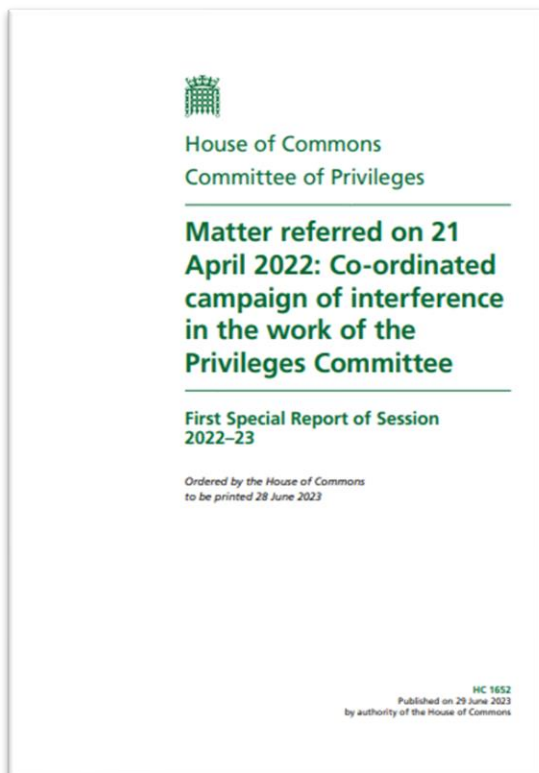


Rt Hon Harriet Harman KC MP
Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham
Mother of the House of Commons

Parliamentary Report

July 2023



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 July report 2023 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.

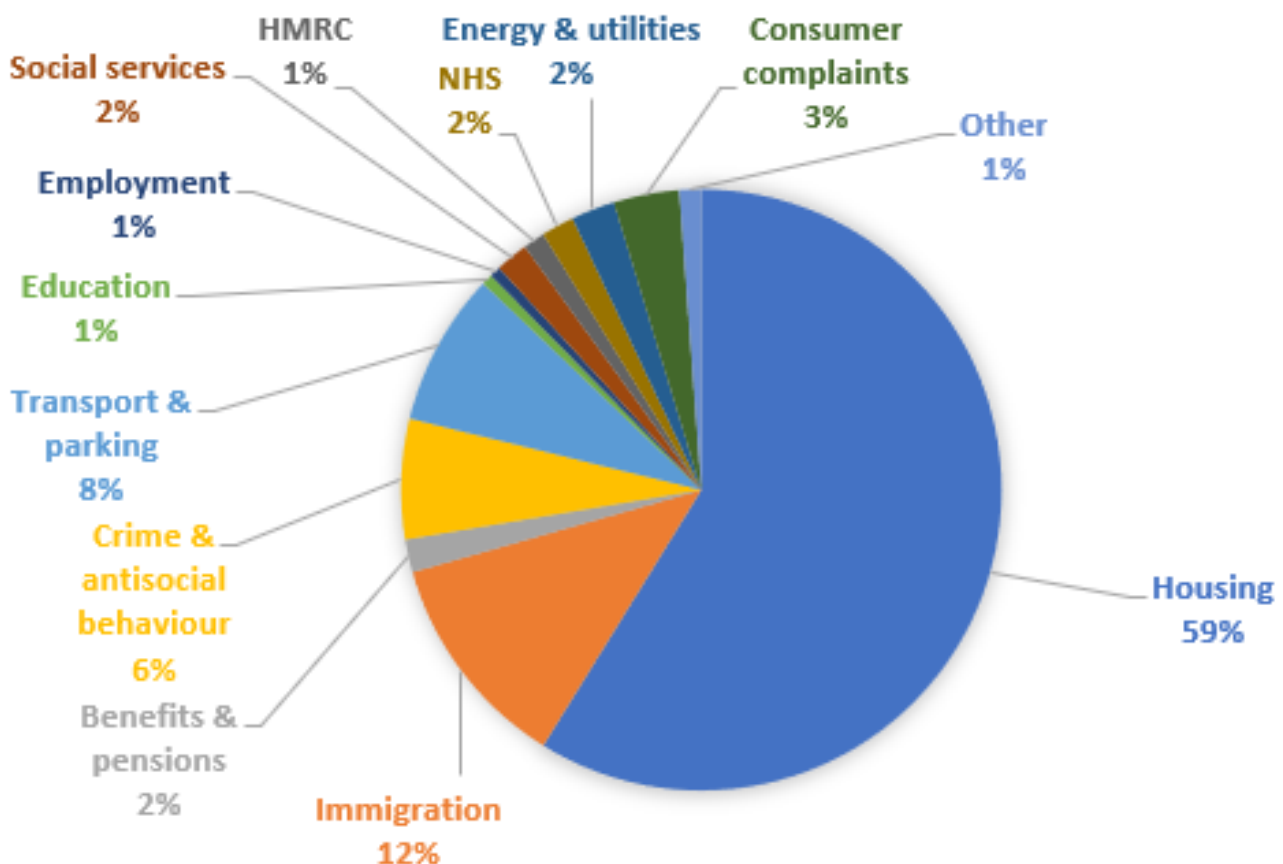
Haniel Hamman

Constituency problems - update

There continues to be an increase in the number of constituents seeking my help with their problems.

New cases breakdown – June 2023

In June I took action on **885** cases and recouped **£3,120.61** for constituents.
In 2023 so far I have recouped **£65,574.58** for constituents.



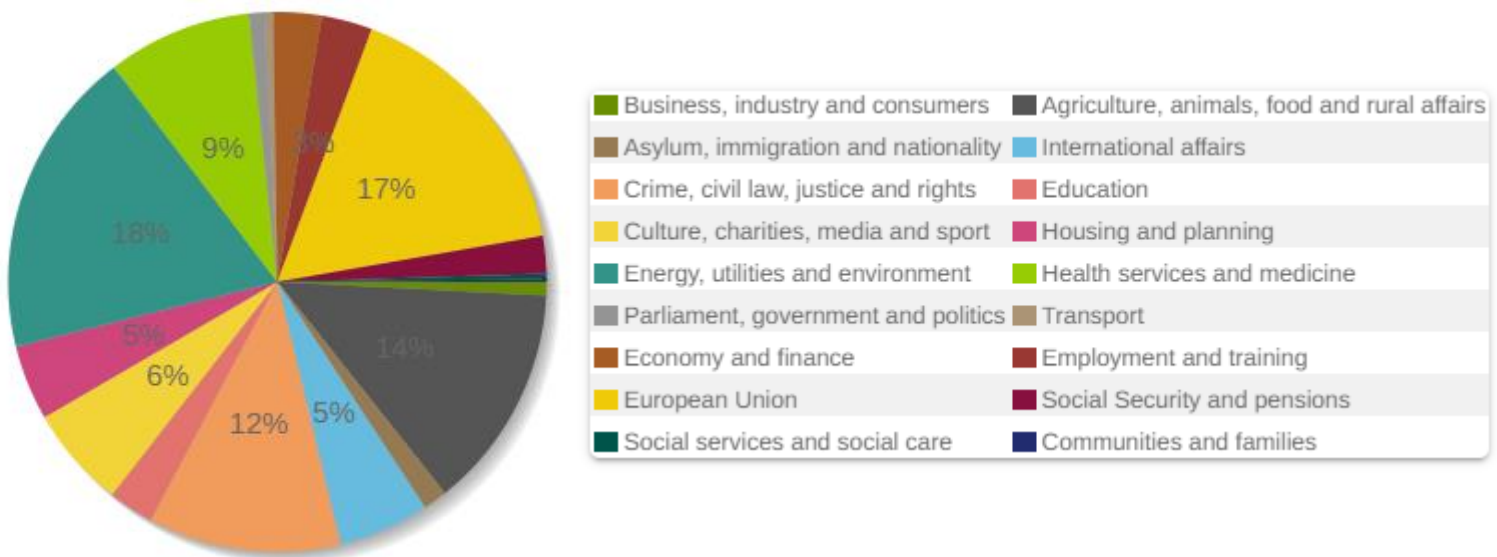
Case summaries:

- I was contacted by a member of staff at Harris Academy Peckham because a car had crashed outside the school but had not been moved for over two weeks and was now covered in graffiti. I wrote urgently to the Metropolitan Police and to Southwark Council to ask for the car to be removed. Southwark Council confirmed that the parking department had authorised the removal. I shared these responses with the school who confirmed that the vehicle has now been removed.
- I was contacted by a Peckham woman who asked for my help getting approval for her husband to join her in the UK from Nigeria. He had originally applied for a spousal visa in 2021 and the application had been refused. My constituent appealed this decision and was successful in November 2022. The following month her husband was asked to submit his passport to the Visa Application Centre so that his Biometric Residency Permit (BRP) could be produced. He did so but he had still not received the BRP or had his documents returned to him. I wrote to the Home Office on his behalf to ask for an update. As a result, my constituent's husband has now received his BRP and he has been able to travel to join his wife in Peckham.
- A woman contacted me on behalf of her 91-year-old mother who lived in a Southern Housing property in the Old Kent Road area. The property was registered in the name of her partner, who had recently died, and as she was not named on the tenancy agreement Southern were asking my constituent to leave her home. I wrote to Southern to ask that they investigate this situation and ensure that my constituent would not be made homeless. Southern responded explaining that they had initially refused my constituent's application for the succession of the property as she had no statutory or contractual right to the tenancy, but that following my contact the Regional Manager looked into the situation and used her discretion to allow my constituent to stay in her property.
- A man living in a property in Walworth owned by London and Quadrant (L&Q) contacted me about an ongoing power cut to his housing block that meant the entry door to the block was not working, leaving the building unsecured. He had contacted L&Q about this but had not received a response. I wrote to L&Q to ask what steps they were taking to resolve this issue and received a response which confirmed that as the door entry system had been damaged by the lack of power, they had now replaced it. I shared this information with my constituent, who was relieved at this outcome.
- A Peckham man requested my help because he had had no water supply to his garage for over 3 months and had been unable to resolve the situation directly with Thames Water. I wrote urgently to Thames Water asking them to deal with this problem and following my contact they quickly replaced a faulty outside stop valve and laid a new supply pipe. I shared this response with my constituent who confirmed that the works had taken place and the water supply was now working.
- I was contacted by a man from Champion Hill who needed to return urgently to Pakistan for his mother's funeral but was unable to leave the UK as he feared if he did he wouldn't be able to return because a decision on his application for

Indefinite Leave to Remain was still outstanding. After initially having had his application refused he had applied for administrative review of the decision in April 2023 and was still waiting for the response. I wrote to the Home Office to ask for a full report into his situation and when a decision was likely to be made. I was then contacted by my constituent who informed me he had received a successful outcome of his administrative review and was able to attend his mother's funeral.

- I was contacted by a Camberwell woman originally from Jamaica who had applied for Leave to Remain in January 2023 for her and her son but had not yet received a decision. I wrote to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to request an update on the progress of their application. UKVI told me that my constituent and her son had been granted Leave to Remain and their Biometric Residency Permit (BRP) would be delivered soon. I was then contacted by my constituent who confirmed that their BRP had been received.

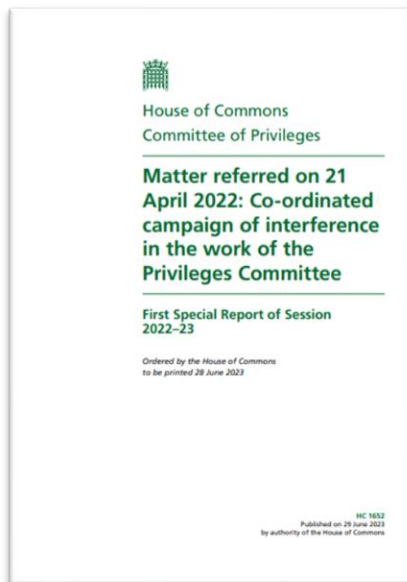
Policy issues breakdown



In June I received **524** emails from constituents on policy issues including:

- Reform abortion law to protect vulnerable women from criminalisation – I support decriminalisation of abortion
- Oppose the Illegal Migration Bill – I strongly oppose this bill, which will only make the asylum system even more unfair.
- Oppose the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill – I oppose the Bill, which threatens teachers and nurses with the sack, attacks fundamental freedoms of working people and does nothing to resolve problems affecting our services.
- Support the "People's Plan for Nature" – I share concerns about the state of nature in England and our levels of biodiversity and agree we need dramatic biodiversity targets to restore our nature
- No new oil and gas projects in the North Sea – I share concerns on this issue. The Government's plan for new exploration in the North Sea is the wrong answer for the climate emergency.

- Support the Renters Reform Bill – I have long supported calls for more rights and better protections for tenants, including an end to section 21 ‘no fault’ evictions to prevent renters from being uprooted with little notice and minimal justification.
- Stop the destructive practice of deep sea mining – I share your concerns and I will continue to monitor developments on this issue closely



Chairing the Privileges Committee

On 29th June, following the publication of the final report of its inquiry into the conduct of Rt Hon Boris Johnson, the Privileges Committee, which I chaired, published its special report on a “Co-ordinated campaign of interference in the work of the Privileges Committee”. The report made it clear that it is not acceptable for Members of Parliament, fearing an outcome that they do not want, to level criticisms at the Committee so that in the event that the conclusion is the one that they do not want, they will have undermined the inquiry’s outcome by undermining confidence in the Committee. We must make sure that, if the House ever again mandates the Privileges Committee to undertake an inquiry into a Member, that there will be Members who are willing to serve on the Committee, and that the Committee and its processes are protected while an inquiry is underway so that the Committee is able to undertake its work in the way that the House wants.

You can read the special report [here](#) and watch the debate on the report [here](#).

Stopping women from being imprisoned for procuring their own abortions

No woman should be jailed for her own abortion. Yet in a recent case, Carla Foster, who induced a late-term abortion, was sentenced to 14 months in jail. This prison sentence was halved and suspended by the Court of Appeal, which commented that it was “a case that calls for compassion, not punishment.”

We need to stop women being imprisoned for procuring their own abortions. On 17th July I [wrote](#) to the Sentencing Council and asked them to implement [draft Sentencing Guidelines](#) that I have written that would ensure that no woman faces more than a community order in these cases.



I also wrote to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Max Hill KC, asking him to publish guidance for Crown Prosecutors on the “public interest” test for prosecution. It seems

to me that it would very rarely, if ever, be in the interest to imprison a woman for carrying out an abortion and guidance should clarify this. You can read my letter [here](#).

There remains an issue with the substantive law, and that is an issue that Parliament must sort. Until then, we can stop women being sent to prison for procuring their own abortion by implementing Sentencing Guidelines and stopping prosecutions.

Visiting Peckham Pantry

On the evening of 6th June I was contacted by Chris Price, the Chief Executive of charity Pecan which runs the Peckham Pantry, a community food bank, after the Pantry had suddenly had their electricity supply cut off by E.ON Energy UK. As a result of not being able to power their fridges Peckham Pantry had to turn people away during the day, and Chris asked for my urgent help to restore the electricity. I wrote directly to the CEO of E.ON, Chris Norbury, demanding an explanation for why they had cut off the power to a small not-for-profit community food bank and asking them to restore the power as soon as possible. The CEO responded to me that evening, explaining that there had been confusion about which company had been supplying power to Peckham Pantry, and electricity was restored to Peckham Pantry the following day. E.ON also made a generous donation to Pecan, amounting in total to £33,000, including a £5,000 online donation, the writing off outstanding energy debt, adding credit to E.ON's account and providing £10,000 of vouchers that local households can use on their pre-payment meters.



Following the resolution of this issue, on 13th July I visited Peckham Pantry along with the E.ON CEO to meet with Chris Price and the manager of Peckham Pantry Temi Okudiya, to hear more about the important work that Peckham Pantry and Pecan are doing to support local residents facing the cost of living crisis.

We also discussed ways that E.ON can engage with local organisations, such as Pecan, to

help protect people from increased energy costs and the cost of living crisis. The Pantry team pointed out to E.ON that the energy vouchers they provided for service users were only valid for individuals with pre-payment meters and therefore many Pantry Members with smart meters have been unable to use the vouchers. E.ON confirmed that they will look into this issue to ensure that this helpful support is available to all Pantry users, regardless of the type of energy meter that they use.

Becoming Chair of the Fawcett Society

On June 29th I was pleased to be announced as the new Chair of the Fawcett Society. The Fawcett Society is the UK's leading charity campaigning for gender equality and women's rights and I am looking forward to working with them as they fight for women's equality.

On 30th June the Fawcett Society won a big victory for women's rights with its case against The Sun and Jeremy Clarkson's article about Meghan Markle. Following a complaint filed with the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) by the Fawcett Society, the watchdog ruled that the piece was sexist. This is a milestone for women's rights.



Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood Labour Party

It was great to join local Labour Party members at the Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood branch fundraiser for an in-conversation event with the local MP Steve Reed on 13th July. We discussed my time in politics, my work in Government, what the Labour Party needs to do to get into power and what it needs to do to



stay there.

It was great to catch up with friends and colleagues from the trade unions, Greater London Assembly, local Lambeth councillors and the Mayor's office, as well as some former constituents of Camberwell and Peckham.

Returning to the chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights



Following the conclusion of the Privileges Committee inquiry into Boris Johnson, I am pleased to have returned to my role as chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

On Wednesday 19th July I chaired a public evidence session on proposals for a "Hillsborough Law", a proposed law that would rectify many of the problems that families affected by the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 faced during the investigations and inquiries that followed. You can view the evidence session [here](#).

Tribute to Glenda Jackson

House Magazine, 29th June



Long before I met Glenda Jackson when she was a Labour activist and then a parliamentary candidate, I was, along with most women of my generation, in awe of her. We'd all seen *Women in Love*. She was *the* icon as a woman in the public eye and as a stunningly talented actress. She was completely different from the stereotypical actress star at the time. She radiated a sense of independence and spoke out fearlessly. She was her own woman, beholden to no-one and certainly not there at the behest of men. And that was as thrilling as it was unusual in those days.

That was at the time when in Labour politics, women were demanding their place in Parliament and Labour was establishing itself as the party of the arts and culture. At that time New Labour, under Tony Blair's leadership, was rapidly gaining ground and one of our pledges (inherited from when Neil Kinnock was leader) was a massive boost for the arts with tax credits for films and significant funding for the Arts Council. Glenda, who was highly political and firmly on the left, exemplified the new strand of

feminism in the party, Labour's strong identification with the artistic community and our big ambition for the future of the arts.



Glenda Jackson left an Oscar-winning acting career to join the quest to get Labour into govt. She brought stardust to the PLP. As passionate and unique in her politics as she was in her acting, she was a huge figure who made an immense contribution! RIP



3:25 PM · Jun 15, 2023 · 42.9K Views

She was also part of New Labour's reach beyond our traditional heartlands and our appeal to the progressive "cultural intelligentsia". She was strongly Labour and strongly on the left of the party. So she was the perfect candidate to fight the North London constituency of Hampstead and Highgate. It had areas of great wealth but also real poverty and had been held by the Tories for many years. It was a huge and symbolic moment for us when, in 1992, she took the seat for Labour from the Tories, narrowly beating their candidate Oliver Letwin.

Her constituents were thrilled with her, both those whose struggle she spoke up about and those in the better off areas.

As one of only 13% women in the Parliamentary Labour Party at the time and with London still dominated by the Tories she never was, nor sought to be, an "insider" in parliament. She was an outstanding and independent figure.

She brought every bit as much passion to her politics as she did to her acting and was a star in the PLP as we grew in strength and then swept into government in 1997. And she later became a transport minister.

Having seen her sensational acting in the role of Bernarda in the tv broadcast of *The House of Bernarda Alba* I once asked her why, with such a unique talent, she wanted to give it all up and come into parliament. She said she felt that there were too few

acting roles for older women (she was 55 when she was first elected to Parliament) so she felt her work would soon dry up.

But when, in 2015, she retired from Parliament at the age of 78, she confounded her own prediction and blazed a new trail for older actresses starring as King Lear at the Old Vic and winning a Tony Award in 2018 for her performance in *Three Tall Women*. She showed that despite the ageism and sexism prevalent in the theatre and film industries, her extraordinary talent meant she would once again be a star of stage and screen.

She was tough and outspoken but her absolute soft spot was for her beloved son Dan Hodges of whom she was so proud. No doubt he was hugely proud of her - as we all were.

RIP Margaret McDonagh

On June 24th it was announced that Margaret McDonagh had sadly died after a battle with brain cancer. Margaret was the first woman to be General Secretary of the Labour Party and the youngest person ever to hold the post, and she played a key role in Labour's 1997 election victory. She was an incredible woman who was part of Labour's progressive history and she will be deeply missed by all those who knew her.

 **Harriet Harman** @HarrietHarman · Jun 24
Such a huge loss to her beloved family and friends. Margaret played a key role in getting @UKLabour into govt and sustaining that govt. An incredible woman who was part of our progressive history. All my sympathy with @Siobhain_Mc

 **Tracey Paul** @TraceyPaul · Jun 24
Dear Friends @Siobhain_Mc has asked me to let you know that her wonderful, brilliant, brave sister Margaret McDonagh died this morning surrounded by people that loved her.



RIP Rohan Trotman

My deepest sympathies to the family of 27 year old Rohan Trotman who was stabbed to death on 25th June in Nunhead. Anyone with any information should call 101 quoting CAD 7706/25Jun. They can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Help and Support

Concerned about rising cost of living? Finding support in Southwark:

If you, or someone you are supporting is struggling financially, there are lots of organisations in Southwark that can help. Southwark Council's Cost of Living support can all be found on their [website](#).

Residents who receive certain benefits and need urgent financial support can apply to the Southwark Emergency and Hardship Support, found [here](#).

Find out what further government support you might be able to get to help with your living costs [here](#).

Information about grants and other financial support can be found [here](#).

Cost of living support for businesses can be found [here](#).

Free confidential advice:

- [Citizens Advice Southwark](#)

Citizens Advice Southwark provide free, confidential, independent and impartial advice to help people resolve their problems with money, housing, employment, legal issues, and more.

Advice line: 080 8278 7849

Drop-in sessions from 10.00 am to 2.00 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

Domestic abuse 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

- [National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#)

The freephone, 24-hour Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Support for victims of crime:

- [Victim Support South London](#)

South London Victim Assessment and Referral Service on freephone: 0808 168 9291, then dial 3

Lines are open 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturdays.

If you need support outside of open hours, call the Supportline on freephone 0808 1689 111

Mental health help and support:

- [Lambeth and Southwark Mind](#)

020 8159 8355 - 8am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

- [Samaritans](#) - 116 123 - 24/7
- [The Nest](#) - 020 8138 1805

Support for older people:

- [Southwark Pensioners](#)

Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

020 7708 4556 info@southwarkpensioners.org.uk

- [Age UK Lewisham and Southwark](#)

020 7701 9700 phone line open 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday

Legal advice:

- [Southwark Law Centre](#)
- [Migrant Legal Action](#)

53 Addington Square, London. SE5 7LB

Opening hours: Monday- Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm. Appointment only.

Reception: 0207 701 0141

Advice Line: 0203 150 1470 (2:00pm to 4:00pm)

Email: info@migrantlegalaction.org.uk

- [Cambridge House Law Centre](#)

Provides legal advice and advocacy services by way of appointment for individuals and families dealing specifically with housing, employment, benefits, and community care issues.

Printworks, Unit F, 22 Amelia Street, London SE17 3BZ

Telephone: 020 7358 7025

Email: lawcentre@ch1889.org

- [Disability Law Service](#)

Provides free legal advice to disabled people, their families and carers. For issues of employment and discrimination at work, or welfare benefits:

Advice Line: 0207 791 9800

Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 10am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm

Food and essentials:

- [Southwark Food Action Alliance](#)

Southwark Food Action Alliance is a group of local organisations that care about good food for all in the borough. Many of its members provide food support to Southwark residents. The SFAA website has information on low-cost recipes and maps showing where you can learn to grow food and where food support services are located in Southwark. Some food support services are only for specific groups, such as older adults. So do check who the service is for before visiting.

- [Pecan foodbank](#)

Peckham Methodist Church, 2 Wood's Rd, SE15 2PX. Monday and Thurs 1pm to 3pm (by appointment only).

Pecan foodbanks work using a voucher referral system. In order to get help from Pecan, people need a voucher issued by a local agency before arriving at a centre. For more information email foodbank.support@pecan.org.uk or call 020 7732 0007.

Pecan also run [Peckham Pantry](#). Members of Peckham Pantry pay £4.50 per shop, which gives access to fresh fruit and veg and store cupboard favourites – to the value of £15 or more. For further information please contact pantry@pecan.org.uk or 020 7277 7075.

- [Spring Community Hub Foodbank](#)

Spring Community Hub, 1 Wilson Road, Modular Building, SE5 8LU. Thursday and Friday 10am to 1pm. Spring Community Hub Foodbanks also work on a referral system. For more information email office@springcommunityhub.org or call 07901 617 189.

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

Find further information from [Ukraine Advice Project UK](#).

Concerned about British and non-British nationals who have been affected by the situation in Afghanistan?

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](#)



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