

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

# Parliamentary Report

February 2024



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 February 2024 report in which I:

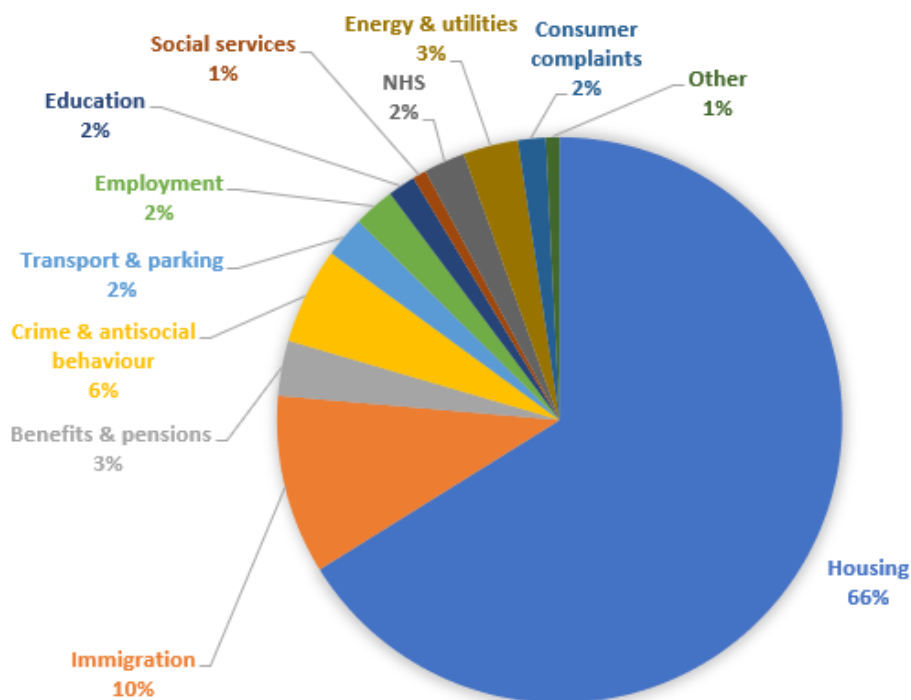
- share with you how I'm going about my work as MP,
- hear from you if you agree with how I'm approaching things and
- what further issues you think I should be addressing.

*Haniel Hamman*

## Constituency problems – update

### New cases breakdown – January 2023

In January I took action on 805 cases and recouped £4,066.62 for constituents. In 2024 so far I have recouped £4,368.62 for constituents.



## Case summaries:

- A man from Camberwell contacted me for help with his Southwark Council Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) payment plan. He had received several letters saying that he was overdue on multiple payments and that his plan had been breached, but he had evidence that proved that he had made the payments. I contacted Southwark Council on his behalf to request a report into this situation. The Council explained that there had been a fault in their system and my constituent's payments had not been updated. This has now been corrected, a new payment plan has been set up for the outstanding PCNs and my constituent has received a copy of the updated payment plan schedule.

- A Camberwell man from Ivory Coast contacted me for assistance with his son's Short-Term Study Student Visa application. He applied to sponsor his son's visa during the stay and cover the financial costs, but the application had been refused. I wrote to the Home Office to request a report and received a response confirming that my constituent had now submitted a new application which the Home Office had approved on the same day. I shared this response with my constituent who confirmed that his son had been granted Entry Clearance and he had been able to travel to England for his studies.
- A Southwark council tenant living in Dulwich contacted me because her boiler was broken and she had had no heating and water for over two months. I wrote to Southwark Council to ask that the boiler be fixed as a matter of urgency. Southwark Council have fixed the boiler and have paid my constituent £212 in compensation.
- I was contacted by a Peckham woman who was having difficulties claiming her State Pension online and had submitted a paper application. She had contacted the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for support during this process, however her claim had been closed due to an error made by the DWP. I wrote to the DWP on her behalf and as a result she been awarded her State Pension and backdated her payments to October 2023, amounting to £2,643.36. A Special Payment of £100 was also issued to apologise for the error and delay in processing her State Pension.
- A nurse living in my constituency informed me that she and her newborn son had been evicted by her private landlord. She contacted Southwark Council for assistance and was placed in emergency temporary accommodation in North London. However she had several concerns about the suitability and cleanliness of this accommodation as the hot water was inconsistent and sewage had been leaking. Her son had been admitted to hospital several times because of the unsanitary environment that they were living in. I made several urgent enquiries to Southwark Council about her housing situation and the unsuitable conditions at her temporary accommodation. Following my enquiries, the Council allocated the woman a new caseworker to investigate her housing situation and she has been rehoused into mother and baby unit in Southwark, where she is very happy.
- A PhD student from New Zealand living in Peckham since 2022 contacted because the Home Office had removed right to work a part-time job on his student visa, meaning that he was at risk of losing his job. I wrote to the Home Office and asked for a report detailing the reasons that the part-time work component of the student visa had been removed and whether my constituent could request the component to be reinstated. I received a response within two weeks stating that his case had been reviewed following my enquiry and his 20-hour work condition has been re-instated until 29 June 2024.
- A woman living in Peckham contacted me as her family were yet to receive a decision on the Naturalisation Applications they had submitted to the Home Office in February 2022. I wrote to the Home Office to ask for an update on the progress of the applications. The Home Office told me that the applications were overdue because they were still conducting enquiries with other

government departments and external agencies. I shared this response with my constituent and asked her to let me know of any updates. My constituent wrote to me again to let me know that their applications have now been processed and that her family have been given a date for their British citizenship ceremony.

- A Saudi Arabian woman living in Peckham contacted me for help because her Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) was printed with an incorrect spelling of her name and an incorrect reference number. I wrote to the Home Office on her behalf to ask for this error to be corrected. As a result, the Home Office issued a new BRP with the correct information and apologised to my constituent for the error.
- I was contacted by a woman from the Philippines living in East Dulwich who was awaiting a decision on her application for Leave to Remain. She was worried because her Health and Care Work visa was due to expire the next month meaning that her right to work and right to rent would also end. I wrote to the Home Office to ask for an update on her application and they explained that there were still mandatory checks that needed to be completed. I shared this update with my constituent who then informed me that she was due to get married overseas in the coming months meaning she needed an urgent outcome on her application. I notified the Home Office of these circumstances, and the constituent contacted me again to confirm that her application had been approved.

In January 2024 I received 2,699 emails from constituents on policy issues including:

- Ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. We must keep working towards the release of all hostages and a cessation of fighting as quickly as possible. See my statement [here](#).
- Support the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill and vote in favour of a livestock export ban – I have long supported a ban on exporting livestock from Great Britain for fattening and slaughter. Long journeys on which animals suffer are not acceptable.
- Make compensation for Windrush victims a Home Office Priority – I believe that the treatment that the Windrush generation has faced is one of the most shameful episodes in our post-war political history. We must pay long overdue compensation and learn the lessons from this appalling scandal.
- Ensure victims of the Post Office Horizon scandal are fairly and swiftly compensated – I agree that we need to deliver justice and compensation to the victims of the scandal as quickly as possible. I support action to get the sub-postmasters the justice they deserve and am committed to ensuring such a scandal can never happen again.

## Visit to Crawford Primary School

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February I visited Crawford Primary School following the resignation of the board of governors of the Gypsy Hill Federation, which Crawford is a part of.

I met with parent's and children at the school and spoke with Headteacher Vicky Shires about protecting Crawford School from any impact from the implosion of Gypsy Hill Federation. Following my visit I wrote to the Leader of Southwark Council, the Leader of Lambeth Council, and the Southwark Council Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees.

Between Lambeth Council and Gypsy Hill Federation it would be a terrible injustice if because of the fall out on the question of the governance the children in Crawford who already have such a high level of need, lose out.



## Unveiling of 2 plaques at Peckham Rye Station

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February I visited Peckham Rye Station along with Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle and Cllr Esme Dobson to attend the unveiling of two plaques to commemorate the completion of award winning works to the station façade. We were joined by representatives from Network Rail, National Railway Heritage Awards, Railway Heritage Trust, The Arch Company, and architect Benny O'Looney. Thank to all involved in the award winning works.



## **Meeting with Chief Executive of Southwark Council, Althea Loderick**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February I visited Tooley Street to meet with Althea Loderick, Chief Executive of Southwark Council.

The vast majority of constituents contacting me for casework help have problems with their housing. I was pleased to meet with Althea to discuss the Council's plans for improvement and their demands for more housing support from Government.



## **Meeting with Moroccan MPs as Chair of the Committee on Standards**

Parliaments all around the world are striving to improve standards and build confidence in Democracy. On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February as Chair of the House of Commons Committee on Standards, I met with a delegation of Moroccan MPs to exchange information and to share experience in this journey.

Thank you to The British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union for facilitating this meeting.



## Welcoming new Labour MPs Damian Egan and Gen Kitchen

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February I, and many of my Labour colleagues, welcomed our two new Labour MPs, Gen Kitchen, MP for Wellingborough and Damian Egan, MP for Kingswood.

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February the people of Wellingborough and Kingswood send a clear message to the Tories that it's time for change. Labour will deliver that change and I am confident that Gen and Damian will be excellent representatives for their constituents.



## THEHOUSE The House Magazine: "Too old, or too young? The age of our politicians shouldn't matter"

Age is now very much "a thing" in US politics. Even I hold my breath when I see Joe Biden wobble up to the microphone so I can hardly imagine what it must be like for his Democrat supporters. But leaving aside his "misspeaking" countries, what he actually says and does makes a great deal of sense and his team, of all ages, seem more than competent.

But a growing number of Americans have a range of worries about his age, can he communicate effectively to his country and beyond, is he confused and unreliable, will he "last"? And then there's the questions about why the Democrats can't produce a young successor. But then the young pretenders in the Republicans have fallen like ninepins in front of their septuagenarian former president.

And now the French President has appointed a Prime Minister in his thirties, prompting the question "is he too young?".

I've been in Parliament as a young person, first elected in my early thirties. And am now just about to leave it as an older person, in my early seventies. When I first arrived I felt uncomfortable and out of place, filled with the certainty that Parliament needed to change fundamentally. Now, four decades later, I feel completely at ease and have seen much of that change take place, but still think more change is necessary.

Politics shouldn't be the exclusive domain of the elderly, but nor should the cult of youth sweep older politicians aside. Our Parliament needs the experience of the old and the impetuosity of youth and everything in between. Every political leadership team should include a range of ages.

But there are undeniably very different attitudes to a politician's age depending on whether it's a man or a woman. Somehow a man always seems to be in his prime while a woman never is. The young man arriving in Parliament is seen as vigorous and energetic and can count on at least someone identifying him as a future leader. While a younger woman is regarded as too attractive and a bit of a distraction. The man in his thirties and forties with a batch of children is regarded as a reassuringly family man. While a woman the same age with a young family is seen as having too much on her plate and a write-off. When the man reaches his sixties, he's regarded as wise, mature and experienced but the woman is deemed "past it".

I hate it when people apologise for mentioning my age. Why should it be an embarrassment? There's nothing wrong with being 73. And if people say I look younger than that I always question why that should be a compliment. Surely we've broken free of the attitude that a woman's worth can only be judged by her attractiveness to men or by her looking as if she's of reproductive age.

Older MPs should not be trying to be, or look, younger. And younger MPs shouldn't be embarrassed about their lack of experience. Our Parliament and our government needs both and the only thing we should guard against is a monoculture which excludes either the old or the young. Our society consists of younger and older people. We are a representative democracy. The clue's in the name.

## **"Democracy Thrives when Women Thrive": Speaking to Westminster Foundation for Democracy Conference**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February I spoke as part of a panel at WFD's conference on transforming women's selection prospects within political parties.

Women face barriers at almost every stage of the selection process, whether it is battling bias at the local level, when putting themselves forward for elected office or having less access to the resources they need to effectively campaign locally.

It is important to make our political parties representative so that the half of the population who are women have their views, interests, and issues, heard.





## Speaking to Churchill College Cambridge on 'Women in Parliament'

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February I visited Churchill College Cambridge, which houses the Churchill Archive, to take part in a series of recorded interviews marking an era of influential women in parliament, many of whom like me are standing down. I spoke about my life in politics from my election at a by-election in 1982 until today.

The Churchill Archive holds the personal papers of more than 570 figures including Margaret Thatcher, Tessa Jowell, Patricia Hewitt and Baroness Trumpington. This interview series will join the Archive.



## Speaking with Amol and Nick on The Today Podcast

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February I joined Amol and Nick on The Today Podcast to speak about the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza and the events of the SNP Opposition Day Debate the night before.

You can listen to the episode [here](#).



ESTABLISHED 1865 LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Mercury

## **southlondonpress** My New Clauses to the Criminal Justice Bill will give Chief Constables the power they need to maintain high standards in their police force

Current procedures for disciplining and dismissing officers who are not fit to serve in the police are woefully inadequate. For years the Government has promised to tighten them up to allow Chief Constables to dismiss officers who've done wrong, but they just haven't done it. So I'm bringing forward new clauses to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill which will give Chief Constables the powers they need to ensure we have the officers we deserve.

There have been too many cases showing why Chief Constables need clear new powers. Met police officer Wayne Couzens pleaded guilty to the murder of Sarah

Everard in 2021. The police knew he'd previously committed indecent exposure, yet he was able to move from Kent Police to the Met. While a Met officer, he exposed himself again. This was known by Met officers but, again, nothing was done, and he remained an officer with the powers he used to abduct Sarah Everard.

In the same year Police Officer David Carrick was arrested, suspended, and finally sacked after admitting to 24 rapes. Carrick was first reported for sexual offences in 2001, before he joined the force but was still able to pass vetting and become an officer which shows why we need change.

We know these high-profile cases are sadly just the tip of the iceberg. Though most officers join the force to serve their community with fairness and respect, these officers, and the public, are let down by those who join for the wrong reasons and by the institutional problems that allow these officers to remain in post. Police Chiefs need to be given the powers to prevent officers who are unsuitable joining the force and if they do get in, have the powers to kick them out.

Last year, with Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, I published a Bill to reform the regulations governing police conduct and dismissal. This Bill would have addressed the shortcomings in existing police procedures and regulations that have been highlighted in Louise Casey's report, by the College of Policing and the Met Commissioner. The bill had the support of MPs across all parties. But the Home Secretary took no action. The Criminal Justice Bill currently going through Parliament is the obvious opportunity to give the Met Commissioner the powers he needs to enable him to reform the Metropolitan Police.

This is why I have tabled 4 New Clauses to the bill which would allow for:

1. Dismissal by the chief constable of a police officer on conviction for a serious criminal offence
2. suspension by the Chief Constable of any officer charged with a serious offence
3. dismissal by the Chief Constable of an officer who fails vetting
4. A duty of officers to handover their personal mobile phones where it is necessary for investigations of gross misconduct.

These changes would mean that Chief Constables would be responsible and accountable for maintaining high disciplinary standards in their force.

My New Clauses have the backing of MPs across the House and I hope they are put into law. The public deserve to be served by a force that upholds the highest professional standards.

### **A toxically misogynistic election campaign would undermine the trust of voters**

This month, along with Maria Miller MP, I have called for a zero-tolerance approach to misogyny in the general election.

Levels of misogyny have worsened in parliament as the number of women have increased and men have found they actually have to listen to a number of women in authority talking confidently.



The Fawcett Society, of which I am Chair, has found that 73 per cent of women do not use social media to speak about certain issues because of the abusive environment online.



Our campaign is asking candidates and parties to sign up to their zero-tolerance pledge, but is also calling on the Electoral Commission to include a specific section on misogyny in its campaigning code of conduct. We are also calling on the Electoral Commission to make a public statement that demonstrations should not take place outside MPs' homes.

This is about the tone that is set for how people talk to each other and how people go about their lives in the whole of the country. If we have a toxically misogynist, abusive general election campaign that feeds into creating a really bad climate in which women have to lead their lives, affecting the whole country.

When I was first elected in 1982 women only made up 3% of MPs. We're now up to 35 per cent and a lot of men find this objectionable and want to unleash misogyny.

The irony is that the more women you get, the more it triggers some men who whilst they can blot out of their ears a couple of women, somehow it feels like an assault on them to actually have to listen to a number of women in authority talking confidently, and they then do a backlash.

This call is part of fighting back against the backlash that comes when you make progress ... it can't be for a group of misogynistic men to drive women out of politics.



### **The Independent: "There's an invidious 'tech bro' culture in AI – what the sector needs is women"**

Everyone agrees that AI is already doing a great deal of good things – it is, for example, speeding up and making more reliable the analysis of mammograms.

The technology is moving at the speed of light, and will undoubtedly do even more good in the future. Clearly we, as a country, need to harness our many assets to make the most of it. The government's response to this new technological frontier, however, seems on the small side.

We need an AI workforce strategy as urgent and as long-sighted as the NHS workforce strategy. We need to make sure that AI is part of a levelling up agenda, spreading its opportunities and drawing on the talent of every region, including Scotland and Wales.

We need the coordination of all the public sector organisations that are finding their way forward on it, but doing so separately by trial and error. And we need to see data as part of our infrastructure development, as important as the roads and railways we use to go to work.

In order to ensure this technology can have a smooth trajectory of development here in the UK, we also need robust regulations which enable AI to flourish, but can identify and prevent problems before they arise.

The usual pattern of regulation is primary legislation, supplemented by secondary legislation, passed by parliament with implementation by regulators empowered by the statutes.

But the problem with AI is that while it is moving at great speed, the pace of enacting legislation is painfully slow – even more so when parliament is seeking to get its head around something new and complicated. What happens is that our laws are already years out of date by the time they get royal assent.

It was 10 years from the time of David Cameron's first announcement to the passing of the Online Safety Bill. That is a hopeless timescale for AI regulation. We can't pass laws for regulation which make any sense when we can't even fully envisage the thing being regulated. And although we know it will, we can't fully predict how AI is going to develop over time.

The answer is not to leave it all to the government to regulate by executive power. These are important public policy issues, and parliament must hold the ring. It can't be left to the regulators to decide the policy. Parliament must decide public policy, and the regulators' role must be to implement it.

We can get swift, smart laws and regulations through parliament, expertly and in real-time. But to do so we need to change our parliamentary process to meet this challenge. We could power up the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee (perhaps jointly with the Business and Trade Select Committee) with extra resources and, through primary legislation, give the select committees power, on behalf of parliament, to regulate.

The statute would give the select committee broad power to regulate. Parliament would then, in the usual way, keep the select committee's work under review. That way you'd get a committee of members of parliament with genuine expertise, and get parliament's built-in authority to regulate at the pace that AI is developing.

There are many precedents for parliament adopting new processes when we need to – and new processes for regulating AI is a classic case for change.

A problem which the government has not recognised is the danger of AI being the domain of the "tech bro" culture, and bias and discrimination becoming embedded in data sets, thereby entrenching the discrimination that it is public policy to root out. Discrimination on grounds of sex, race, or social class is bad enough when you can clearly see it and challenge it. But hidden bias which is unchallengeable will be dreadful. It will potentially halt the progress we've made towards equality and even turn the clock back if it pollutes our data sets and is written into algorithms. Among many organisations in this space, the Open Data Institute (ODI) makes the case for a commitment to strong data infrastructure as a vital step towards tackling inequalities, biases, and discrimination.

There's already an invidious "tech bro" culture in AI. Research by the Fawcett Society earlier this year found that nearly half of men working in the sector thought that it

wouldn't benefit from a gender balance in the workforce, and one in five think women are less suited to jobs in it. This attitude, the research showed, deters women from staying in the sector and thereby robs it of the talent of half the population.

We've all got a stake in the advance of AI. We all need a say, through parliament, in how it's regulated – and women, as well as men, are needed to take it forward.

## **My proposal for a Speaker's Conference on violence and abuse against MPs**

I am deeply disappointed that Mike Freer MP feels he has to stand down as MP after his office was targeted with an arson attack.

No MP should be subject to harassment and violence for doing the job that they are elected to do.

Its time for my 2019 proposal for a Speaker's Conference on protecting our democracy by guaranteeing the ability of Members of Parliament to go about their work without threat, harassment, violence or intimidation. This needs to happen now.

### **Proposal for:**

**A Speaker's Conference on protecting our democracy by guaranteeing the ability of Members of Parliament to go about their work without threat, harassment, violence or intimidation.**

### **A Speaker's Conference:**

Established by the Speaker with terms of reference laid down in a motion of the House.  
Undertaken by a committee of Members from across the House chaired by the Speaker.  
To gather and consider data.  
Empowered to call evidence in writing and orally.  
A date by which to report with recommendations.

Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP  
Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham  
Mother of the House of Commons  
26<sup>th</sup> September 2019



Twitter: @HarrietHarman  
www.harrietharman.org.uk



## **My New Clause to the Criminal Justice Bill that would protect children from fathers convicted of serious child sexual offences**

When a man commits a serious sexual offence he has to go on the sex offenders register and is prevented from working with children. This protects other people's children but it does not protect his own children over whom he retains parental responsibility. A father who is convicted of child sexual offences automatically retains his parental responsibility over his own children, meaning that he is entitled to have contact with them and to make decisions that affect their lives. So I'm bringing forward a new clause to the Criminal Justice Bill that would protect children from fathers convicted of serious child sexual offences.

The National Crime Agency estimates that 1 in 6 girls and 1 in 20 boys will have experienced child sexual abuse before the age of 16. This is a shocking statistic and clearly more needs to be done to protect children from abuse. The Ministry of Justice say they are "carefully reviewing the approach to parental access to make sure all children are kept safe". But change isn't coming quickly enough and children are being left unprotected in the meantime.

My new clause to the Criminal Justice Bill would make it the default position that a father who is convicted of child sexual offences would lose his parental responsibility,

subject to it being reinstated by the Family Court on his application if it is judged to be in the best interest of the child.

Under the current system, mothers seeking to protect their children from paedophile fathers have to take the challenging and expensive step of taking their case to the family court in the hope that a judge will rule that the father's parental responsibility should be removed.

One such case is the story of 'Bethan', reported on BBC radio 4, who had to pay over £30,000 to protect her child from her paedophile father. Even though her child's father was convicted of serious child sexual offences and was given an order banning him from any future contact with children, he retained his parental responsibility over his own child, meaning that he would be entitled to contact her once his prison sentence has been served.

Bethan took her case to the Family Court where the judge eventually ruled that her former partner's parental responsibility be comprehensively restricted. But this lengthy process caused Bethan and her daughter significant stress and cost the family tens of thousands of pounds.

The reality is that not every mother will have the family support, the time, the funds, or the knowledge to pursue such an outcome in the family court. My amendment will help other mothers to avoid similarly costly court cases and ensure children are swiftly protected from dangerous and abusive men.

My new clause builds on Jade's Law which has been added to the Victims and Prisoners Bill. Jade's Law protects children by removing parental responsibility from the man who kills a child's mother. My new clause will similarly remove parental responsibility of the father when he is convicted of sexual offences against children.

This change has the support of MPs from Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green and Plaid Cymru. I hope that the government will agree to put this much needed change into law.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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)