

BELL RIBEIRO-ADDY MP

Monthly Report, June-July 2022



Hasta La Vista Boris

Boris Johnson tendered his resignation in the same way he conducted himself throughout his time in office: without a hint of humility and without so much as an apology for his conduct. After months of scandals and cover ups, his announcement that he will be leaving office in Autumn was not before time.

But Johnson's premiership has shown the true face of the Conservative Party, with Tory Ministers and MPs overwhelmingly prepared to tolerate his corruption until the very last, and openly pledging support for many of this Government's worst policies: from deporting people to Rwanda to cracking down on civil liberties. Above all, the two Johnson acolytes jostling to take up their boss's mantle are devoted to the same policies that saw our society hollowed out over the last decade.

It was really grim to watch Rishi Sunak bragging about rigging funding formulas to shovel money to wealthy Tory areas and Liz Truss proposing to cut pay for public sector pay for workers outside London and the Southeast. Regional inequality in the UK is among the worst of any wealthy country and all pretence of levelling up has been abandoned. Whoever our next PM is, it's clear inequality is now openly stated Tory policy.

Their main answers to the cost of living scandal are some of the same things that caused it in the first place. After twelve years of putting public sector pay on ice, workers in our public services are long overdue a pay rise. And public money should be going where it's most needed; not where it's most likely to buy Conservative votes.

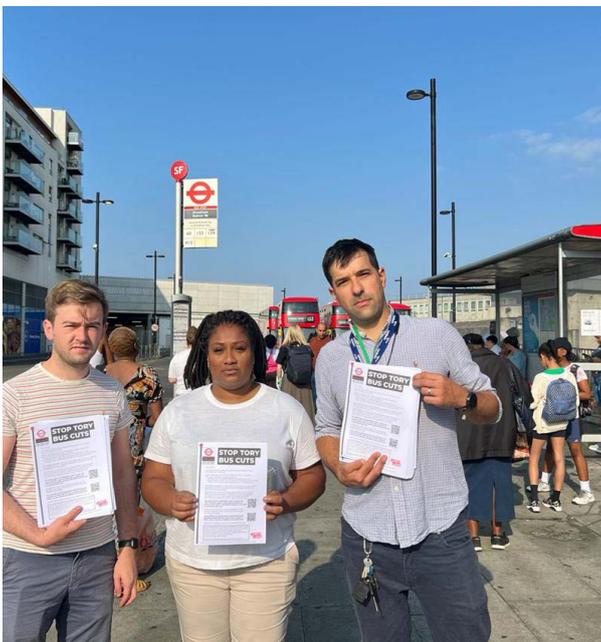
With energy bills set to soar to over £4,000 next year, we need urgent action to cut bills, inflation-proof pay, and make sure everyone has the basics. People can't afford to sit around waiting for support whilst the Tories fight like rats in a sack and offer sops to rich Tory voting constituencies to try and get the top job. If they can't provide the help people need because they're in total disarray, then they should stand down and make way for the only party that can.

Read my piece on the [Tory leadership race](#)

In the Constituency

Reselected

I'm over the moon to report that I've been reelected as Labour's parliamentary candidate for Streatham at the next general election, with unanimous support from all branches of Streatham Labour and local trade unionists. Thank you once again to everyone for placing your trust in me. Representing my home area as a Labour MP has been the honour of a lifetime and I'm so excited to continue the work of the last two and a half years together and help win the progressive Labour government we need to rebuild our country.



Protect our Public Transport

Even as the Government denounces striking rail workers for causing travel disruption, they are forcing TfL to cut the equivalent of an entire tube line and 20% of London's buses. The only people who want to make it more difficult to get around London on public transport are the Tories. As a constituency without a tube station, I know bus cuts are a real worry for many residents. Streatham buses under threat of being rerouted (59 & 133) or axed altogether (45), I'll keep fighting for a fair deal for London's public transport. The Tories must stop swinging the axe at our transport infrastructure.

As a constituency without a tube station, I know bus cuts are a real worry for many residents. I joined our Lambeth Labour councillors for a day of action to stop the Tory bus cuts and call on the Government to stop holding London's public transport to ransom. The Tories have cut TfL's funding by £600 million and has demanded they make service cuts and increase prices for funding to survive the Covid-19 pandemic. This now leaves TfL facing the prospect of having to cut 20% of London's bus network, with several buses serving Streatham (45, 59 & 133) at risk being axed or changed.

Meeting with St Martin's Estate Residents

In June, I had the opportunity to meet with the St Martin's Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) to discuss ongoing compensation claims. I've been campaigning alongside residents on the estate for proper compensation after their lift was left broken for months. They shared further stories of disrepair and issues with water charges and service charge transparency more generally. I'm currently looking into these issues and will be writing to their housing association about the compensation process again.



Remembering Maxine James



The sudden passing of Streatham Labour's Chair Maxine James in July last year was sorely felt by all of us in the local Party and the Black community as a whole. Maxine was a devoted local activist in our area for more than 20 years. In all the years I knew her, she made it her life's work to challenge racial inequality. Her family are fundraising for a bench in memory of Maxine on her beloved Streatham Common. Please give generously.

Contribute to [Maxine's Memorial Bench](#) on Streatham Common

Visiting Temporary Accommodation at Stanthorpe Hotel

With more than 36,000 people on the social housing waiting list in Lambeth, it's important to ensure we have the highest standards in our temporary accommodation. I joined our St Leonard's Councillors to inspect temporary accommodation at the Stanthorpe Hotel, where residents have raised issues about conditions. During our visit, we observed reasonable standards of hygiene but cramped conditions, ongoing damp issues and lack of access to outside space. The building is clearly in need of refurbishment and there are also concerns about how much value for money the contractor is currently providing. I'll be taking this issue forwards and lobbying for residents to gain access to the garden area too.



World Blood Donor Day



The shortage of Black blood donors in the UK means we urgently need more people from African and Caribbean communities to come forwards and give blood. That's why I recently took part in the Bonded by Blood donation drive in memory of Richard Okorogheye. On World Blood Donor Day, I urged people to come forwards and give blood and reiterated my call for the Government to do its part too. Discriminatory blood donation laws were removed last year, but they still cast a long shadow. With thousands of new Black

blood donors required, the Government must work to build community confidence, make giving blood inclusive & ensure everyone's healthcare needs are met.

Watch my call for [more Black Blood Donors](#)



Local School Visits

One of my favourite things about being an MP is getting out into the community, talking to young people about the political issues that interest them, and helping them engage with the political process. I managed to fit in several school visits over the last two months.

I took part in a young leaders' Q&A with students at Fenstanton Primary about my role as an MP. I spoke with students at St Martin's in the Field during their work experience debrief about careers more generally and why we should put the idea of lifelong learning at the centre of our education system. I also had a great discussion about politics and careers with Year Twelve students at Burntwood School. And it was so much fun to take part in two wonderful school fairs at Granton Primary and Holy Trinity Church of England Primary.

Meeting with Serco Refuse Loaders

When Serco took over Lambeth's Waste Management contract last year there were concerns due to Serco's poor history with running other contracts – in particular, their asylum accommodation contracts with the Home Office. In a recent meeting with local refuse collectors, workers told me of the awful experiences they had: not being supplied with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), being told to glue boots together, and having to wear their own clothes while collecting waste.

New Park Baptist Road Community Fun Day

It was lovely to attend the annual New Park Baptist Church community fun day with our Clapham Park Labour councillors and catch up with some local community legends. It's always lovely to see people coming together to celebrate the diversity of our area: whether through food, music, games, and activities. I was also able to give out some of my newly translated Here to Help leaflets to local Brazilian and Portuguese communities.



I'm still on the lookout for people who can help me translate these into some other commonly spoken languages amongst those I help, including: Arabic, Amharic, Bengali, German, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya and Yoruba. If you know someone who can help, drop my office an email: bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk.

Streatham Food Festival

The Streatham Food Festival is a reminder that we live in the culinary centre of South London. Organised by Streatham BID, it was a pleasure to be out celebrating the amazing array of restaurants, cafes and local producers we're lucky to have in the constituency. Every year, they put on some great deals as part of the festival to get people eating locally. This year, there was even an official Streatham Food Festival tuk tuk you can flag down for a free ride between venues.



Opposing the Sell-Off of our Local Surgeries

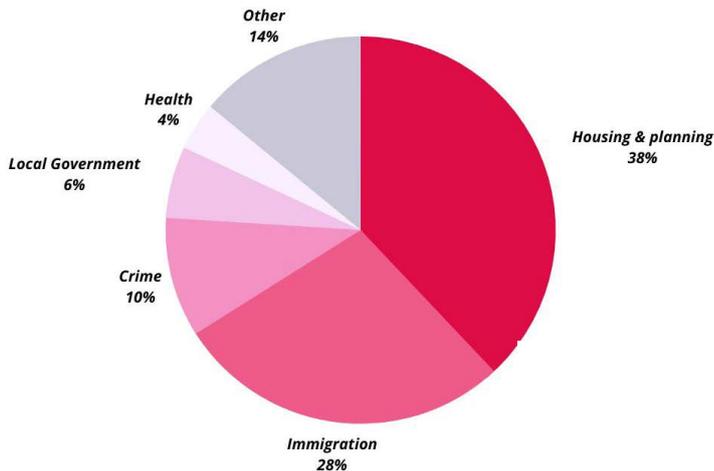
Last year, the Government allowed American healthcare company Centene to buy up 49 GP surgeries across London through its UK subsidiary Operose Health – including three right here in our constituency. This summer, a BBC Panorama exposé revealed how this company is endangering safety in the pursuit of profit, with staff shortages, underqualified medical and administrative staff and massive referral backlogs.

The US corporate takeover of our health services isn't a distant threat, but a present reality. Instead of pouring NHS money into the coffers of corner-cutting US corporations, the Government must reinstate our NHS as a fully public service that works for people, not profit. I've consistently campaigned for these surgeries to be [taken out of Operose Health's hands](#) and run by a company that can deliver the standard of service that people in Streatham deserve and will continue to do so.



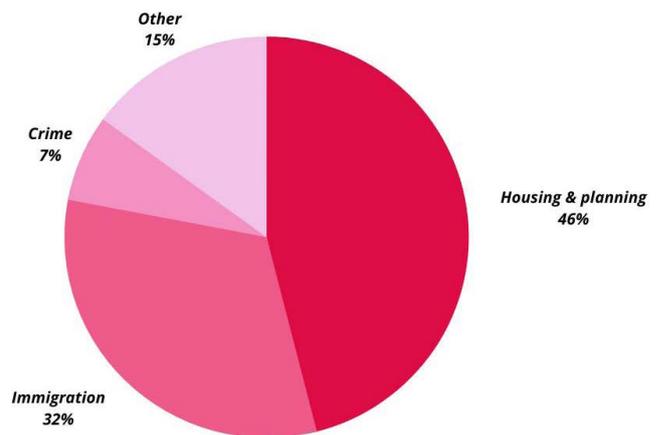
Casework

Casework volumes have remained high over the summer period, with several issues driving up demand for assistance from the Office. Driving up immigration cases has been a spike in passport difficulties, with the Government still failing to clear chronic Home Office backlogs. As well as assisting the regular stream of people facing substandard housing, my Office has also helped a number of residents facing illegal evictions in recent weeks alongside a number of people querying parking fines and seeking help to acquire private hire licenses.



July Statistics

June Statistics



Correspondence

As we came to the end of the Parliamentary session, my inbox was flooded with requests to attend the final few debates that took place before the summer break. I've also had several emails regarding the Government's Online Safety Bill which seeks to put more responsibilities on social media companies to crack down on online abuse. As the Bill progresses through Parliament, I have received several emails from constituents who are concerned that the Bill is either too broad or threatens free speech. This is vital piece of legislation is the first of its kind in the UK. It's important to get this one right, so I welcome constituents sharing concerns with me and will use these to inform my position on the Bill.

During the summer break, when there's no Parliamentary business taking place, my correspondence inbox tends to have more of a local focus as constituents take the opportunity to write to me regarding issues they've spotted around the constituency. I've seen an increase in emails regarding the Streatham Hill LTNs and the TfL plans to cancel or alter several bus routes that service our constituency. I always welcome this long gap in Parliamentary business as it gives me a great opportunity to see what constituency matters are of most concern to local residents. If you have a local matter that you'd like to raise with me, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In Parliament

Holding the Tories' Feet to the Fire over Partygate

The country is facing the worst squeeze on living standards in living memory. But this week, the Tories once again proved that helping people through this comes a distant second to helping their leader cling on to power. 59% of Tory MPs voted to let the PM off the hook for holding Downing Street lockdown parties, lying about them and rewriting the rules to remove himself from accountability. Unsurprisingly, the same MPs voted against Labour's motion to strengthen standards in public life and clean up Westminster. The outcome of these votes only confirms that the Tories' guiding principle is one rule for them and another rule for everyone else. But people are sick and tired of them hiding behind procedure to defend corruption. The lack of accountability for corruption, lying and law-breaking will only deepen public anger towards Westminster politics and the Conservative Party.



Speaking about Johnson on [BBC Politics Live](#)

Putting Race Front and Centre of the Covid Inquiry

I recently co-ordinated a cross-party letter on behalf of the Federation of Ethnic Minority Healthcare Organisations (FEMHO) urging the Government to include the unequal impact of the pandemic on minoritised communities in their Covid inquiry terms of reference and hear evidence from FEMHO. This was signed by 39 Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Plaid Cymru and Scottish National Party MPs. I'm pleased that Downing Street has now accepted these recommendations. This month, I hosted FEMHO's inaugural meeting in Parliament where experts talked about poor outcomes for ethnic minority healthcare workers and discussed legal aspects of the inquiry. Any meaningful Covid inquiry must put racial disparities front and centre.



Opposing Another Illegal Bill from the Government

The Government's illegal Bill to rip up the Northern Ireland Protocol represents another breach of international law, threatening peace in Northern Ireland, bringing more economic disruption and undermining future trade deals. They know full well that the majority of people in Northern Ireland voted against Brexit, by a much bigger margin than the Vote Leave campaign achieved, and they continue to elect a large majority of MPs and MLAs who oppose Brexit and support the protocol—but then this Government and their predecessors have never been over-concerned with democracy in Ireland. I spoke and voted against this Bill on Monday.

Opposing the [NI Protocol Bill](#)

Speaking up for Londoners on Policing

June saw the Metropolitan Police placed in special measures for the first time in its history. In the wake of Sarah Everard's murder, the illegal strip search of Child Q, and a string of other abuses, confidence in the Met is at an all-time low. These issues are particularly pronounced in our own borough, where Sarah's killing last year and attempts from the Met's top brass to shut down a vigil in its aftermath were acutely felt and where we continue to see high levels of disproportionality in policing. Our borough has the lowest expressed level of confidence in the Metropolitan Police of any London borough. I asked the Policing Minister when the Government are going to take responsibility for this and push through the changes Londoners are calling for: from more community policing to reviewing the overuse of stop and search.

I wrote to the Government to highlight concerns about the independence and impartiality of their review into Cressida Dick's resignation. Another whitewash will do nothing to rebuild shattered confidence in London's policing and make our city safer for all our communities. Instead of trying to impose their will on the people of London and pitting the police against people, the Government should listen to Londoners, giving us a say in the appointment of our next Commissioner.

Speaking up about Policing Failures

Listening to the Evidence on Restitution



This month, the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for African Reparations held its first evidence session on the question of restitution. The British Empire treated former colonies and colonial subjects as its personal property for centuries. Refusing to give back artefacts looted from former British colonies rests on the same racist logic. This evidence session offered a chance to hear from experts within the museums and heritage sector, who outlined some of the obstacles to repatriating objects that were looted under Empire, as well as the solutions.

Stop Tearing Communities and Families Apart

I had the chance to question Dominic Raab about the Government's latest mass deportation flight to Ghana and Nigeria as he deputised at Prime Minister's Questions. The people onboard this flight included mothers, grandmothers, and an LGBT+ asylum seeker. They are not, as the Deputy Prime Minister insinuated in his answer, dangerous criminals. I will continue to challenge these flights, which tear communities and families apart and fly in the face of human rights and equalities law.

Listen to my PMQ on the Deportation Flight

Racism in the Cabinet Office

In my last parliamentary question before Summer Recess, I asked the Government about allegations of racism in the Cabinet Office and whether they will commit to the public inquiry demanded by PCS Union members who have faced discrimination and bullying in the department.

Watch my Question on racism in the Cabinet Office

Reflecting On the Windrush Scandal: No Lessons Learned

On Windrush Day we celebrate the generation of people who came from every corner of the Commonwealth to help rebuild Britain after the Second World War. We must never forget their huge contribution or the racism they suffered at the hands of successive governments. I [tabled an EDM](#) celebrating 74 years since the Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury.

I also took part in my colleague Kate Osamor MP's Westminster Hall Debate on the Windrush Lessons Learned Review. Eighteen months after this report, it's important to hold the Government to account for their failures to follow through on their commitments to act on its findings and recommendations. If the Government really wanted to address the injustices of the Windrush scandal, they would move beyond empty commitments and gesture politics by making the compensation scheme independent and dismantling the Hostile Environment. Without this, the Government's £1m Windrush Statue, built without fully consulting the Windrush community, is just a monument to their ongoing failure to acknowledge and act on their trauma.

Standing up for Windrush survivors

Labour Opposition Days: Passport Office delays & Channel 4

In June, Labour held an Opposition Day on Passport Office delays and the proposed privatisation of Channel Four. Boris Johnson recently claimed at PMQs that everybody is getting their passport within six weeks. In reality, his own data shows that over people faced ten-week plus Passport Office delays in the first three months of 2021 alone. Labour highlighted the Government failures behind this: from staffing cuts to their inability to prepare for the summer spike in demand, and refusals to hold outsourcing companies to account for overcharging, underperforming, and still losing hundreds of passports every year.

I was also happy to vote for our motion calling for an apology in light of this and support another motion opposing the privatisation of Channel Four, which would be an act of cultural and economic vandalism. We can't let them take an axe to Channel Four just because they're determined to destroy any institution that holds them to account.

TELL THE TORIES:

**FIX BORIS
JOHNSON'S
BACKLOG
BRITAIN**



Helping Refugees Reach Safety

The Home Office has been delaying visas for Ukrainian babies and children despite approving their parents', including families being sponsored by my constituents. You could be forgiven for thinking this was a cynical attempt to issue visas whilst ensuring people couldn't actually come here. Whatever the root cause, it has put families and young people in harm's way and needs to stop. The Government's failure to support people fleeing war in Ukraine is inseparable from their determination to

deny refugees their rights. Instead of issuing visas to select groups of refugees, they should dismantle the Hostile Environment, open safe routes and give people a chance to rebuild their lives in safety.

Standing up for refugees denied travel

Human Rights Under Attack

It was great to join my colleagues Abena Opong-Asare MP and Janet Daby MP to meet with a delegation from the Parliament of Ghana. As Ghana's Parliament considers legislation to criminalise LG-BTQ+ rights and our own Government threatens to rip up so many of our hard-won rights, we discussed the importance of protecting and promoting human rights, which are coming under attack in both our countries.



Reviewing Stop and Search

The Stop Watch Girls Project is an 18-month national research project funded by the national lottery, to interview young women about their experiences of Stop and Search. It was devised in response to girls and young women reporting stop-search encounters to be frightening and humiliating experiences. It was great to welcome them to Parliament to launch their female-led research project. Instead of ramping up Stop and Search, the Government should listen and learn from the racism and misogyny these women have faced and call a review.

End Youth Hunger for Good

I was glad to host Centrepunt UK in Parliament to launch their latest report on youth food insecurity and homelessness. Their research showed that over two thirds (67 per cent) of vulnerable young people report that they have needed to rely on emergency food provision; one third (31 per cent) often have to do this. They're urging the Government to make a simple commitment to ensuring no young person has to choose between paying bills and having enough food to eat.

National Security Bill

This month, in Parliament saw another piece of authoritarian legislation from a Government that is more interested in silencing its critics than ending the injustices they highlight. I voted against the National Security Bill, which represents an attack on public interest journalism. The National Union of Journalists has rightly pointed out that the National Security Bill does not protect disclosures in the public interest, meaning measures ostensibly targeting foreign spies can end up being applied to journalists and whistleblowers – as the Official Secrets Act has been in the past.

Redress for Victims of the Football Index Collapse

The betting site Football Index collapsed in March 2021, going offline after a series of crashes in its “football stock market”, where users could buy and trade “shares” in leading players. The Gambling Commission, which regulated the company, suspended its licence, leaving customers with stakes of at least £90m in open bets trapped in the platform. The collapse of the Football Index has taken a devastating financial and mental toll on thousands of people up and down the country. I was proud to support my constituents' calls for redress in this week's Westminster Hall.

Watch my call for [Redress for FI victims](#)

Campaigns



Conference of the Black Child

June marked 35 years since the first Black MPs were elected to Parliament. It was great to join the longest serving of them, Diane Abbott MP, to celebrate this momentous date. What more fitting way to mark the day than with a conference to explore how we can build a school system where children can learn free from racism. It was great to chair the plenary panel on the Conference for the Black Child at Stoke Newington School and discuss dismantling racism in schools with inspiring educators, activists and trade unionists.

Marching for LGBTQ liberation

July marked the fiftieth anniversary of London Pride - when 2,000 activists marched through our city for the first time to protest against discrimination and police harassment towards the gay community. It's always important to remember Pride's radical roots. It was an honour to march alongside organisations at the forefront of the struggle for liberation like Stonewall and LGBTQ+ Labour, who are picking up the mantle of this ground-breaking activism, and show my solidarity with the entire LGBTQ+ community.



Celebrating 74 years of universal healthcare

In my regular column in the South London Press, I wrote about the sell-off of local GP surgeries to an American health corporation and what this shows about the sorry state of our NHS under the Conservatives. On July 5th, we celebrated the 74 years of universal healthcare on our NHS. It's no exaggeration to claim that the NHS is probably the single biggest achievement of any government in history. But with waiting lists at record highs and the Conservatives determined to auction off essential services, we must keep fighting to defend our NHS and the principle universal healthcare on which it was founded.

Read my column celebrating [74 years of the NHS](#)

Standing with our Trade Unions

I was proud to march alongside thousands of people from across the trade union movement in June to demand a pay rise for Britain, a better deal in workplaces, and action to address the Tory cost of living crisis. Rents are already up 15.7% in London on last year, FTSE350 profits are up 75%, CEO pay is up 29% and city bonuses are up 20%. The reason people are struggling is because we have unrestrained profiteering from landlords, corporations, bosses and bankers whilst the Government tells workers they have to take another real terms pay cut after a decade of the same.

I was also on the picket line at Waterloo with rail workers in July as they walked out to defend their pay, jobs and conditions. I was proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with RMT Union members trying to make their voices heard and ensure that workers aren't left picking up the tab for the financial turmoil now facing our country after twelve years of Tory Government.



Train companies still raked in £500 million in profits last year - enough to give a £12,500 pay rise to every single rail worker going on strike. It's profits that are driving inflation at the moment; not the fact that workers are earning less and less. The only people taking a pay cut should be the profiteers driving up inflation.

Instead of listening to people exercising their democratic rights to try and get a fair deal for workers, the Tories are using everything at their disposal to attack them, bringing in new legislation that undermines the right to strike and introducing new strike-breaking laws. I'll be standing up for them and defend the right to strike if we're going to build a society that works for the many, not the few.

Refugees Welcome: Opposing the Hostile Environment

The Government's Rwanda deportation plans are nothing more than state-sanctioned people trafficking. Their deranged insistence on pushing ahead with this week's £500,000 flight is an incredibly expensive way to demonstrate their racist credentials and commitment to persecuting refugees. I was proud to join protesters on Monday ahead of the flight to show the scale of opposition to the inhumane treatment of people who just want to rebuild their lives here in safety. Instead of subjecting people who've fled war, persecution and climate breakdown to further upheaval and trauma, we should be taking in our fair share of refugees and giving them a fair chance to rebuild their lives in safety.



On Thursday, I joined South London Refugee Association for a beautiful event to commemorate ten years since the launch of the Hostile Environment. From Go Home vans to the Windrush Scandal and Rwanda deportations, this has ruined countless lives. But recent events show communities fighting back against the attacks on our neighbours, friends, and loved ones, and resisting scapegoating. It should be obvious to anyone that refugees are not responsible for problems with housing, healthcare and education; these are the responsibility of the government that has been in power for the last twelve years.

Speaking against Rwanda Deportation Plans

Pushing for a World Without Nuclear Weapons

In June, I had the opportunity to attend the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons conference. This Treaty has been signed by hundreds of countries but not the UK Government, who haven't even shown up and are stockpiling more nukes instead of pursuing nuclear disarmament. It is an affront to human life that at a time when we are facing the challenges of a global pandemic, rising global poverty and a climate catastrophe, the Tories pouring yet more money into destructive nuclear technology. With this treaty, it now have an international ban on nuclear weapons. The next step is to enforce it.



We Need a Comprehensive Ban on Conversion Therapy

LGBT+ conversion therapy is more accurately described as torture. It must be banned in all forms and in its use against all members of the LGBT+ community. I was unable to get in on June's debate on Trans Conversion Therapy but from the hundreds of emails I've received from constituents, the opposition to this in our constituency couldn't be clearer. We need a ban on conversion therapy that protects everyone – not least because of the overlap between conversion therapy for sexual orientation and gender identity. This may well mean that in practice, excluding conversion therapy targeting gender identity from the ban would weaken attempts to implement any ban.

Extend the Road Traffic Act to Protect Cats

In January 2022, my constituent Olivia was having a lie-in with her partner when she got a knock on the door from her neighbour, who gave her the tragic news that Dart had been struck by a car, killed, and left at the side of a road. After weeks of heartbreak and grief, Olivia was shocked to find out that when a motorist collides with a cat, they don't legally have to report it. That's because the Road Traffic Act doesn't protect cats. She's now on a mission to [change the law](#) to give cats the same legal protections as dogs, pigs, mules and other animals by compelling drivers to stop and report collisions with cats. This month, her petition reached the milestone of 100,000 signatures. Let's get this debated in Parliament for everyone who has lost a cat on the roads.



Put Racial Inequalities Front and Centre of the Covid Inquiry

I co-ordinated a [cross-party letter](#) on behalf of the Federation of Ethnic Minority Healthcare Organisations (FEMHO) calling on the Government to include the unequal impact of the pandemic on minoritised communities in their Covid inquiry terms of reference and hear evidence from FEMHO. This was signed by 39 Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Plaid Cymru and Scottish National Party MPs. There are 178,000 reasons why we need a comprehensive Covid inquiry that leaves no stone unturned and no community left behind. Any meaningful Covid inquiry must put racial disparities front and centre.

Marching on the Met for Safer Policing

To mark the second anniversary of Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry's murder, we marched on Scotland Yard to demand action on institutional racism and misogyny in the Met. As more and more evidence of these issues comes to light, we've had apology after apology. But without openly acknowledging the institutional misogyny and racism that persist in policing and outlining a plan to address these issues, apologies are just reputation management. That's why we're asking the Home Secretary to consult people in our City on the appointment of the next Met Commissioner to ensure they confront these issues and restore community confidence in policing.



Cost of Living Crisis

I joined members of my trade union, Unite, outside Parliament to highlight the financial turmoil facing the country after twelve years of Tory Government. They have created a Snakes and Ladders game that demonstrates what it's like for the millions living below or close to the breadline right now, with the ever-present threat of "snakes" like benefit cuts, zero hours contracts, school holiday hunger, rent hikes, loss of pay, and energy bill increases. But there are also "ladders" like trade unions, affordable housing and a stronger social security net. Unite are calling for the restoration of the £20 Universal Credit lifeline to help some of the poorest households in our country weather the current situation.

Watch my [March on the Met](#) speech



Catch up with Cancer

When the Tories fail our public services, it's always the vulnerable who suffer most. With waiting times in the NHS at record highs, cancer patients are not getting the urgent care they need. For every month patients go without treatment, survival rates can drop by up to 10%. In London, 34.3% of patients are waiting longer than the target time of two months for urgent treatment. I met with the Catch Up with Cancer campaign to speak to leading radiotherapy experts, patients, and workforce representatives about the Government's upcoming 10-year Cancer Plan and the importance of radiotherapy. There is a serious need for increased treatment capacity to clear the backlog and reduce waiting times. I am fully behind the campaign to boost funding and invest in NHS radiotherapy.

Campaigning to End Classroom Hunger

It was good to meet with Magic Breakfast outside of Parliament this week to hear about their work providing healthy breakfasts to children in Streatham and beyond. I back their call to boost spending by £75m to provide breakfasts to 893,000 more children. The cost of living crisis makes it all the more urgent to extend eligibility for Free School Meals. No child should be left struggling to concentrate because of classroom hunger.



Standing up for Teachers



It's not just students who are struggling because of the financial squeeze. After a decade of school cuts and austerity, teachers are once again feeling the pinch as they face real terms pay cuts, and threats to their pensions. I addressed a branch meeting of the National Association of Headteachers in June to thank local school leaders for everything they've done to keep schools running through the pandemic. I restated my commitment to addressing the retention and recruitment crisis in the sector and giving our teachers the things they need to provide the highest standards of education to students.

End the Care to Prison Pipeline

Less than 1% of people grow up in care but care leavers make up 25% of the UK prison population and 33% of the UK homeless population respectively. I was proud to join children's charity Become in June to discuss how we can address the failures in our care system and champion care leavers in Parliament. This issue is rooted in two areas: a lack of protection and a dangerously out-of-date attitude perpetuated from the top down. We have to ensure that we are not only preventing harms and abuses while children are in care, but that they are given a support system for them to thrive.



Read more about ending the [care to prison pipeline](#)



Parliament is now in Recess, so I won't be back in the House of Commons again until September but I'll still be taking the fight to the Tories over the summer, campaigning for action to address the poverty and financial precarity facing the country after twelve years of their policy choices. As ever, I'll also be out and about in the constituency, talking to residents about the things that matter to them.

Thank you to everyone who attended the latest Streatham Labour members' event, put on at the request of our joint Co-Chairs, vice membership. With the Government crumbling around us, it was good to check-in with members and get their ideas for how we can take the fight to the Tories and win a Labour Government. As representatives of the Labour party, the wider labour movement and our local communities, we must always remember the Labour members, trade unionists and voters who got us where we are.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Contact Me

✉ [Bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk)

☎ (020) 7219 6695

🌐 www.bellribeiroaddy.com

🐦 @BellRibeiroAddy

📷 @bell_ribeiroaddy

f @Bell4Streatham