

BELL RIBEIRO-ADDY MP

Monthly Report, May 2021



End Child Poverty

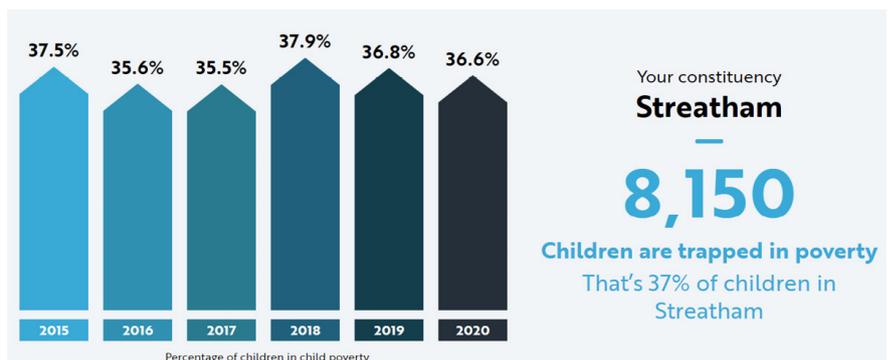
The latest statistics on child poverty in Streatham are truly shocking. According to the latest data from End Child Poverty Action Group, 8,150 children in our area are now growing up trapped in poverty. That's 37 per cent of children in our constituency, meaning more than 1 in 3 children in Streatham now live in homes where families are struggling to make ends meet.

For all the Tories' talk of the metropolitan elite, London as a whole remains the region with the highest amount of child poverty. Due to a combination of sky-high housing costs, low pay, a lack of workplace flexibility, and the high costs of childcare, 37 per cent of children in our city are growing up in relative poverty.

This month, I met with Child Poverty Action Group to discuss child poverty in Streatham and across the country. They were clear that a decade of austerity and public service cuts are culpable for the 800,000 increase in child poverty in working households since 2010. They were also clear about the three most important things the Government can do to reduce the number of children falling into poverty in the UK:

1. Removing the two-child limit and the benefit cap would lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty.
2. Increasing child benefit would substantially reduce child poverty as well as providing support to all families with the extra costs children bring.
3. Maintaining the uplift to Universal Credit past the October cut-off and extending this to recipients of legacy benefits.

I'll continue to push for these policies and promote others which will help us to hardwire fairness into the economy and build a more equal society, from better social housing to an end to insecure work and large-scale government investment in a green industrial revolution.



In the Constituency

Every shot of the vaccine takes us closer to normality

I was very glad to receive the NHS text to go and get my first vaccine dose this month at Streatham Place surgery. We should all be incredibly grateful to the NHS workers and volunteers who have made our rapid vaccine rollout possible. With the Streatham vaccine rollout well underway, you should be receiving a text from the NHS before you know it. When the time comes, make sure to book your appointment. Getting the vaccine couldn't be quicker or easier and is the best way of keeping yourself and your family safe from Covid.



Unlocking continues

This month, London (and the rest of the UK) moved into stage 3 of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown restrictions with cinemas, retail, pubs, restaurants, swimming pools, gyms and sport all on the agenda once more. Cases in Lambeth have seen a modest increase over the last month. Whilst the vaccination drive means we are better placed to cope with the possible increase in infection rates, we're still not out of the woods. I will continue to call for a cautious approach to reopening that follows the science and recognises that the best economic approach is always a public health approach, not the other way round.

COVID-19: Restrictions in England From 17 May

STEP 3

MEETING OTHERS You can meet outdoors in groups of up to 30 people. You can meet indoors in groups of up to six people or two households. You don't have to stay 2m apart from friends and family, but consider the risks to you and those you are with.	OVERNIGHT STAYS Domestic overnight stays are allowed, in groups of up to six people or 2 households.	EDUCATION Schools, colleges and universities fully open. Regular testing provided.	WORK AND BUSINESS You should continue to work from home if you can.
RETAIL AND PERSONAL CARE Open.	BARs, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS Open. Groups of up to six people or two households allowed indoors. Groups of up to 30 allowed outdoors.	ACCOMMODATION All holiday accommodation open, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs.	LEISURE AND SPORTS FACILITIES Open indoors and outdoors, including gyms, indoor sports facilities, swimming pools, saunas and steam rooms. Organised sport and group exercises allowed.
ENTERTAINMENT Open indoors and outdoors, including cinemas, bowling alleys, zoos and theme parks.	LARGE EVENTS Events, including live performances, business events and sporting events can proceed with capacity limits, indoors and outdoors.	DOMESTIC TRAVEL Travel safely. Plan ahead and avoid the busiest times and routes if you can.	OVERSEAS TRAVEL Check whether your destination is on the red, amber or green list. You should not travel to red and amber countries. If you are travelling to a green country, check the rules in your destination as testing or quarantine requirements may be in place.
PLACES OF WORSHIP Open. You can attend in groups of 8 people or 2 households.	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS Weddings, receptions, life events and wakes can take place with up to 30 attendees, indoors in a COVID-Secure venue, or outdoors. No limit on funeral attendees, subject to how many the venue can safely accommodate with social distancing.	RESIDENTIAL CARE People who live in a care home can have 'low risk' visits out of the home without the need to isolate when they get back. Residents can also name up to five visitors.	SHIELDING If you are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) you do not need to shield, but should continue to take extra precautions such as shopping in quieter times of the day. You can follow the same advice on meeting friends and family as everyone else.

Brixton Windmill

It was great to finish the month with a tour of Brixton Windmill, the only working windmill in Central London, to learn all about its history and how it works. As a child, I used to regularly walk past the windmill on my way to my aunt's house so I was really excited to be allowed inside for the first time. The Friends of Brixton Windmill's volunteer millers have been grinding flour and delivering it to local food banks throughout the pandemic. Now that restrictions are easing, they're open for tours once more with a brand new visitor centre and a café with a great selection of local produce.



Stories of Brexit

This month, I met with a handful of constituents affected by Brexit to listen to their stories. Issues raised included the difficulties facing second property owners and concerns over the devastating economic and social impact of the Government's new immigration plans. I will continue to listen to the experiences of people in Streatham and take these into Parliament with me going forwards.

Meeting with Liveable Wells

It was great to meet with Liveable Wells this month to discuss their goal of implementing a low traffic neighbourhood in Streatham Wells. Their locally led consultations have already shown strong support for the scheme. I recognise in other areas there has been opposition to the rollout of LTNs over traffic build-up and women's safety. We hope these issues can be resolved when full consultation begins and that by working with local communities, we can ensure the scheme works for all.

Nationwide Brixton reopening

I joined my colleague Helen Hayes this month for the grand reopening of the Brixton branch of Nationwide. It's positive to see Nationwide Building Society investing locally at a time when other branches are closing down in our area. With the pandemic accelerating bank branch closures across the UK, it's important to ensure everyone can access in-person banking, particularly vulnerable people, and redouble our efforts to tackle the digital divide.



Catching up with the High Trees team

It was great to catch up with the team at High Trees Community Development Trust in Tulse Hill to discuss the work they've been doing to support communities in our area during the pandemic: from helping people get back into work to helping to reduce the digital divide.

We also discussed their future plans to embark on an ambitious renovation project to improve and expand their services. As their patron, I am delighted to support all the work they do locally, particularly around improving access to technology. If you're able to, please consider supporting their fundraising efforts.

Handing out Eid gifts

It was a pleasure to hand out Eid gifts at Stockwell Green Mosque this month to celebrate Eid al-Fitr alongside Vauxhall's Labour MP Florence Eshalomi and Councillor Irfan Mohammed. I hope everyone had a blessed Ramadan and a joyful Eid.



Together Against Debt

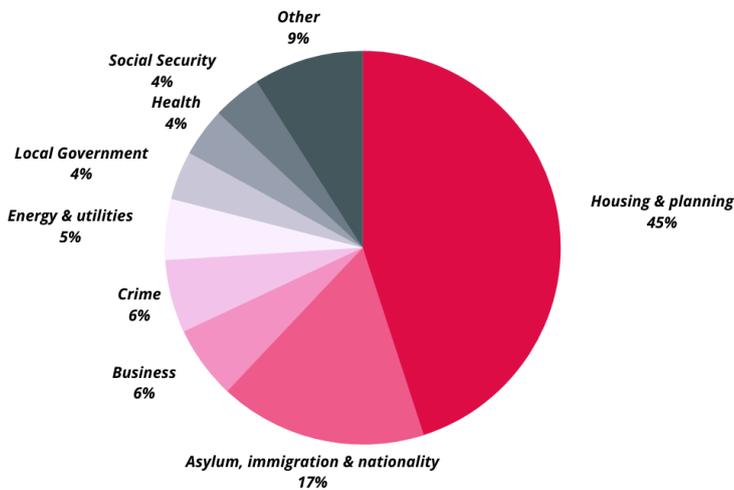
Together Against Debt is a grassroots campaign whose mission is to amplify the national voice of debtors to engage with and put pressure on the decision-makers who currently wield power over them. Having piloted a scheme in Greater Manchester, they're now rolling out their model of community organising in South London. The pandemic has only sharpened the UK's problem with debt. I was pleased to support their campaign this month by helping them put together and host a roundtable of local organisations.

They're currently running a national survey of debtors to establish how the pandemic has affected people's personal debt levels and shape their policy asks. You can access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M26M9G9>.



Casework

Casework has been steady this month, during which I've opened 94 new cases and closed 73. As usual, these were overwhelmingly related to housing with immigration and local government cases also figuring more prominently.



May Statistics

Correspondence

In the month of May, the return of Parliament means I've had many constituents writing in on a wide range of issues. By far, I received the most correspondence (over 500) on the ongoing violence in Occupied Palestinian Territories after Israel's eviction of Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah. Other prominent campaigns included the demonstrations in Columbia over the excessive use of military force, the report stage of the Environment Bill, and the dangers of mandatory calorie labelling on menus.

Racial profiling in Tooting

This month, I was made aware of a Met Police operation on Mitcham Road, which appeared to racially profile delivery riders under the guise of routine traffic stops. Embedded in this operation were immigration enforcement officials, and the Met subsequently boasted about how they made three arrests for immigration offences. Under the Equalities Act 2010, this may amount to indirect discrimination due to its disproportionate impact on ethnic minority groups. Such enforcement action certainly doesn't meet the high standards of transparency that the public deserve.



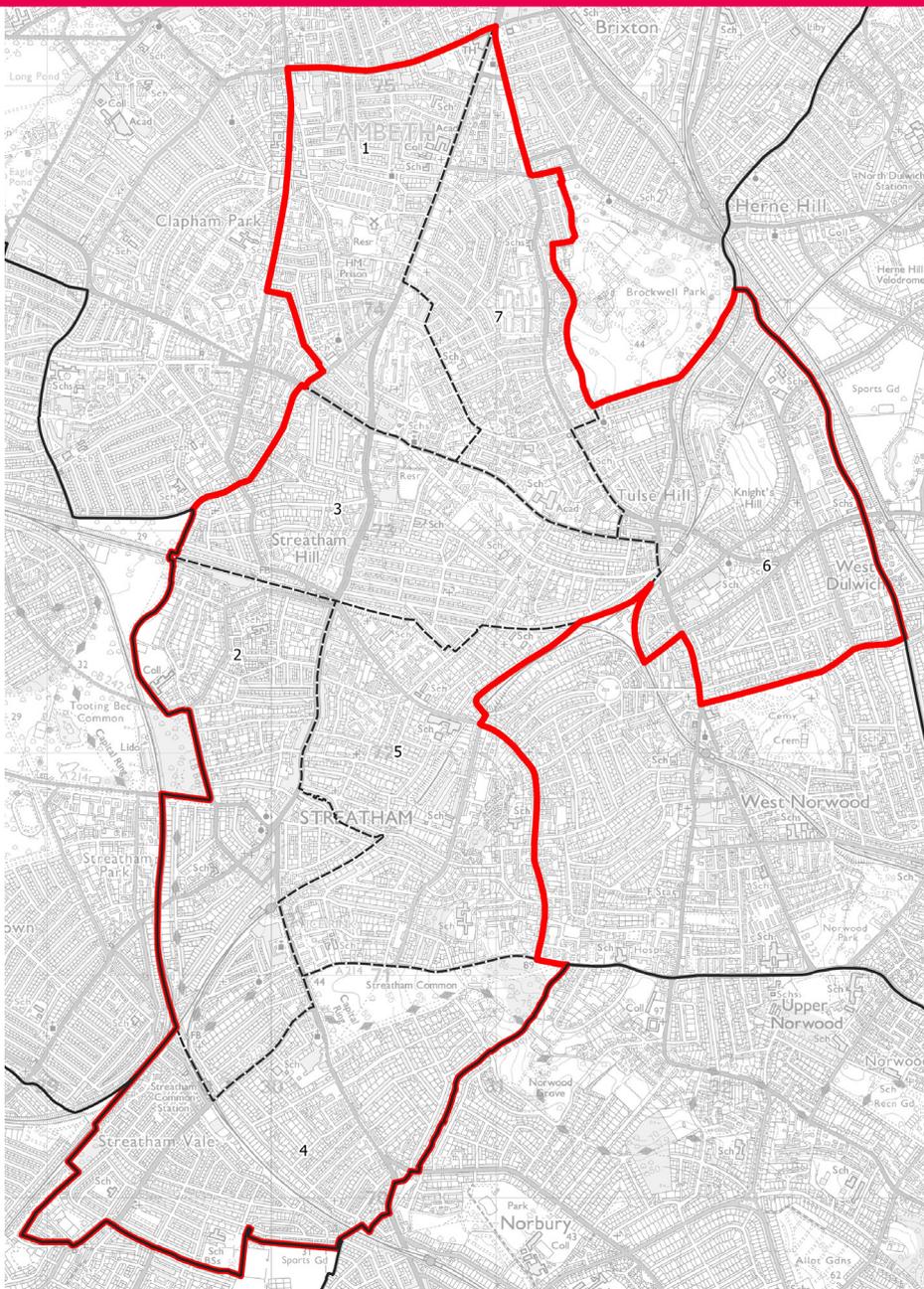
Following numerous complaints about fast food delivery riders we conducted an operation in #tooting this afternoon with immigration enforcement. In 90 mins we stopped 48 bikes. 2 were seized for no insurance 3 riders reported for offences 2 x arrests for immigration offences



If you have an issue that you need help with, or know someone else in the constituency who may benefit from having their MP fight their corner, please email me at bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk with your full name, postcode and a brief outline of the problem you are experiencing. My team and I will be happy to try and assist you as best we can.

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

Boundary Review



This month saw the publication of the Boundary Commission's initial proposal for the new constituency boundaries across England. Under the changes outlined, Streatham would lose the Clapham Common and Thornton wards and gain Thurlow Park (currently in Dulwich and West Norwood). The proposals will go out for public consultation over an eight-week period, from 8 June 2021 to 2 August 2021, where alternative boundaries could be adopted by the Commission, based on a variety of reasons.

You can click the link below to see more about how Streatham and other neighbouring constituencies are affected and share your views on the proposals.

I'm very interested to hear your thoughts on these changes too. You can contact me in the usual way: bell.ribeiroaddy.mp@parliament.uk

Find out more about the [new boundary proposals](#)

In Parliament

Affordable and safe housing for all

I spoke on the fourth day of this year's Queen's Speech debate on the Government's new plans for housing. Safe, affordable housing is one of the most basic human needs but under the Conservatives, it is one that is being denied to far too many people.

Research released this month by End Child Poverty revealed that 8,150 children in Streatham are growing up trapped in poverty. That's more than one in three. In London, rocketing housing costs are one of the main drivers of household poverty. I am concerned by the Government's ill-conceived planning and leasehold reforms, which put the needs of developers ahead of the needs of local communities and will only make housing even less affordable.

And that's before we consider the fact that hundreds of thousands of people in the UK are trapped in unsafe and unsellable homes thanks to the Government's inaction on the cladding scandal. There are an estimated 12,000 people in Lambeth alone who find themselves in this situation. Labour called on the Government to set a binding target to remove flammable cladding from homes by June 2022, the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, and reiterated the call to protect leaseholders from the astronomical costs associated with making buildings safe.

Sadly, the Tories rejected these amendments. They have promised to protect leaseholders from the costs of remediation work no less than 17 times but they've now voted against this 6 times.

Women and Equalities Select Committee

This month the Women and Equalities Committee held several evidence sessions on an array of issues. We held a session with former members of the LGBT Advisory Panel. As you may know, prior to the LGBT Advisory Panel being disbanded, several members stepped down, citing hostilities from the Government Equalities Office. The committee had the opportunity to raise questions to the panel members on the about their views on the Government's commitment to LGBTQ+ issues, which revealed a rather chilling level of hostility from the Government.

We also had the opportunity to raise questions to the Minister for Women and Equalities, Liz Truss MP, about the role of the Government Equalities Office. I focused my questions on the response to Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on those with protected characteristics. Throughout the past 15 months, we have seen that existing inequalities have been exacerbated and the Government seems to have ignored the needs of protected groups in their response to the crisis.

The Committee also had a one-off session with Tony Sewell and two other members of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities on their recent report. The report has received much criticism since its publication and I myself have been very vocal in my criticism of its findings. I had the opportunity to raise questions to the head of the Commission, dissecting its findings on racial disparities in health as well as employment, fairness at work, and enterprise.

You can follow the work of the committee here: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/328/women-and-equalities-committee>

Watch my contribution to the [Queen's Speech debate](#)

Urgent question on violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

This month there was an urgent question in Parliament on the violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. With the USA repeatedly blocking a joint resolution from the United Nations Security Council calling for a ceasefire, I asked what steps the UK Government was taking to put pressure on its ally to stop standing in the way of a peaceful resolution. It was disappointing that the UK Government does not challenge our allies when they are in the wrong.

I also raised concerns over the Government's ongoing refusal to recognise the state of Palestine, which undermines their supposed commitment to a two-state solution. Israeli air strikes killed 232 Palestinians in the 10 days of fighting from 10th-20th May, including 65 children. Rockets fired from Gaza have killed 12 people in Israel, including 2 children.

I am glad that the indiscriminate bombardment has now ended but there will be no lasting peace until we can resolve the root causes of the violence: the eviction of Palestinian families from Jerusalem, the longstanding illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, and the ongoing blockade of Gaza.

Watch my contribution to the [Urgent Question](#)

After Cummings: Covid Inquiry

Dominic Cummings' testimony painted a damning picture of the Government's chaotic response to the pandemic, reigniting discussion around the discharge of Covid patients into care homes, the lack of preparedness and systems failure, and Johnson's own persistent opposition to lockdowns.

It's not just about whether Matt Hancock lied about the UK being prepared with PPE or Boris Johnson said, "let the bodies pile high", it's that these things are what happened under this Government. This month, I've echoed the bereaved families' call to bring forwards the inquiry into their handling of the pandemic. It's unacceptable to kick this into the long grass when they seem to have doubled down on dangerous decisions over the last year and contributed to the UK's outsized death toll.



"The truth is, senior ministers, senior officials, senior advisers like me fell disastrously short of the standards that the public has the right to expect in a crisis like this. When the public needed us most the government failed."

Finance Bill amendments

I tabled two amendments to the Finance Bill calling on the Government to publish environmental and equalities impact assessments. If their Budget fails to meet our climate obligations and will deepen existing inequality, the least they can do is be transparent about this.

My New Clause 4 would have meant the Chancellor had to report back on what impact this year's Bill had on reducing our carbon footprint and progressing towards net zero. New Clause 5 would have meant he had to report back on its impact on households, people with protected characteristics and compliance with the public sector equality duty. These amendments were not adopted.

(Not So) Great British Railways

This month, the Government announced its rebrand of the UK's rail infrastructure: Great British Railways. For 30 years, the public has taken on the risk of rail privatisation whilst private companies reap the reward and this has not changed during the pandemic. Contrast TfL's recent bailout agreement with the no-strings bailouts dished out to failing privatised rail companies.

The cost of an annual season ticket from Streatham to London Bridge has risen by £316 (41%) since 2010. UK rail fares per mile are some of the highest in Europe. These plans do nothing to address the issues of runaway fare hikes or chronic underinvestment in infrastructure. What would? Labour's excellent blueprint for full public ownership for a single publicly owned railway company that owns tracks, operators and rolling stock. The time for full public ownership is long overdue.

Environment Bill

When the Environment Bill came before Parliament this month (finally), the Tories voted down our amendment for a permanent fracking ban. That tells you everything you need to know about this shoddy legislation. It also failed to put WHO air quality targets into law, falls way short on ecological restoration, waters down key legal provisions, and lacks proper enforcement powers.

Thanks to pressure from climate activists and Labour, the UK was the first major economy to set a net-zero emissions target. At this rate, we'll be the last to reach it. We know what the solution to the climate emergency is: a Green New Deal as outlined in Labour's 2019 manifesto, premised on public-led investment, green job creation and rapid decarbonisation in line with the UK's position as one of the largest historic emitters.

Ending barriers to regularisation

This month, I tabled an EDM with the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) calling for simple and workable reforms to remove barriers and create fresh routes to regularisation. The complexity and cost of our immigration system leaves people losing their status through no fault of their own. Against the Government's dangerous rhetoric about "illegal immigration", JCWI's recent study, *We Are Here*, found that 4 out of 5 people who were currently without status had come here via legal routes and subsequently lost their status.

The New Plan for Immigration threatens to deepen this issue by seeking to remove status from an entirely new category of refugees who have every right to seek asylum here. We need to push back against the false dichotomy between legitimate and illegitimate asylum seekers. The UK is one of the wealthiest countries in the world and we have an obligation to help refugees who have fled from conditions that the UK has often been complicit in creating: climate catastrophe, conflict, and poverty. We need a fairer immigration system that is genuinely responsive to our economic need and doesn't try to trip people up at every possible opportunity.

The Queen's Speech

Every year, at the State Opening of Parliament, the Government sets out its plans for the next year in the Queen's Speech. This is followed by several days of debate in Parliament on a series of topics chosen by the opposition. I spoke on day four of the debate (you can read my write-up above), talking about the housing crisis and calling for action on the cladding scandal. I also supported amendments from the Labour frontbench and other colleagues, including a hard deadline of June 2022 to remove cladding, bereavement support for the children of unmarried couples, a Windfall Tax on super profits, a wealth tax on the super-rich, and a 55% tax rate for incomes over £200,000.

The 31 Bills announced this year laid down a clear anti-democratic agenda, building on similar legislation like the Overseas Operations Bill and the Covert Human Intelligence Sources Bill brought forwards in the last session. They sent a clear message that rather than focusing on the ravages of the pandemic and delivering on their own stated levelling up agenda, Boris Johnson's Government are more interested in consolidating wealth and power. There are three Bills which raise particular concerns for me.

Police Crackdown Bill

In the last Parliament, the Tories were forced to drop plans for the dismal Policing, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Bill, more accurately dubbed the Police Crackdown Bill. Unfortunately, we've not seen the last of this Bill, which is the Government's response to the successful protest movements of recent years, including Black Lives Matter and Extinction Rebellion.

Campaigners forced important concessions from Conservative governments, leaving them with no choice but to promise to act on two of the major social issues of our time. This Queen's Speech is a reminder that the Government would sooner legislate to ban protesters than the injustices they raise.

Electoral Integrity Bill

This is the Government's attempt at Republican-style voter suppression, introducing new burdens on voters. The equalities impact of such a move have been well studied. If you are poorer, disabled, trans, or from an ethnic minority background, you're much less likely to own valid photo ID. We need to call this shameless attempt at voter suppression out loud and clear and make a strong case for democratic participation.

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

A Bill that makes good on Gavin Williamson's promise to introduce a free speech enforcer on campus was also announced. As my colleague Charlotte Nichols pointed out, this legislation potentially introduces a loophole that would give Holocaust deniers legal protections. The biggest threat to free speech on university campuses is not student societies disin-viting Conservative MPs and far right figures from addressing events, it's the Government threatening the freedom of student societies to choose who speaks at their events.

Together with officers in the Socialist Campaign Group, I put together an [Alternative Queen's Speech](#)

Campaigns



Lambeth CND launch meeting: nurses not nukes

I joined Lambeth CND for their official launch meeting this month, where we talked about the Government's dangerous plans to expand its stock of nuclear warheads. In the midst of a health pandemic the UK government has decided to give nurses a pay rise of 1% whilst increasing the stockpile of Britain's nuclear warheads by 40%. This is not only immoral and a vast waste of money, it's also illegal under international law. Lambeth CND are planning a range of activities over the coming months to highlight the Government's warped priorities. I'll highlight these as and when they do.



Community Tech Aid

Another big congratulations to Community Tech Aid who recently won the Closing the Digital Divide award in the inaugural 2021 Levelling Up awards and celebrated their first birthday this month. Thanks to our joint Laptops for Learning initiative, we've raised over £10,000 to supply hundreds of children in our area with devices for remote learning to use during lockdown.

Founded by Streatham CLP's very own former Women's Officer, Linda Heiden, in their first year of existence, Community Tech Aid delivered a total of 650 devices, supporting 136 organisations and connecting 36 homes in the process. The return of schools still doesn't mean that the UK's digital access problems are miraculously solved. Many people are still in need, particularly in areas like ours where household poverty remains high. I'm looking forwards to working with them in future.

The pandemic has been a reminder of the huge digital divide in the UK and the need to improve slow internet speeds in Streatham and beyond. It's not just that everyone deserves internet access; it's that without it, you can't access most of the things you need to function in the 21st century.

Donate to our **Laptops for Learning** initiative

Free Palestine

I was proud to join thousands in our city, across the country and internationally in solidarity with the people of Palestine to mark Nakba Day.

The UK Government must listen and take action to end the violence and secure lasting peace and a two-state solution. As a starting point, that means recognising the Palestinian right to self-determination, and stopping the supply of military hardware to Israel in the midst of human rights abuses. The UK has exported more than £400 million worth of arms since 2015.



Watch the [speech](#) I gave at this demonstration.

No Child Left Behind

I was also proud to add my signature to the No Child Left Behind campaign, which acknowledges the shocking impact child poverty has on children's educational attainment. As an MP, I pledge to do everything in my power to ensure no child is left behind in Streatham. We must value and invest in all our children, so they are supported to learn, succeed, and go on to have the bright futures they deserve.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP Labour Party

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR COMMITMENT TO
ENDING CHILD POVERTY**

Together we'll push
the Government to
leave no child behind

**NO CHILD
LEFT BEHIND** 

Marching against the Police Crackdown Bill on May Day

On May Day, I joined thousands of people in London to march against the disgraceful Police Crackdown Bill. In my address to the rally in Windrush Square, I made it clear that it's not just about this one Bill but a wider authoritarian drive.

The Tories are coming after hard-won rights like the right to protest and the right to vote. But in doing so, they are only strengthening our collective resolve to resist, with progressive groups of all stripes coming out to demand they scrap this particular Bill.

The fact that the power of protest forced the Government to shelve the Bill until a later date is a cause for genuine optimism. On International Workers' Day, we send a pretty clear message that we're not just going to roll over and allow them to take away these rights.



Parliamentary BAME network

I was scheduled to join the Parliamentary BAME network for a fireside chat but ended up joining them on the road during the last week of the local election campaign. It was good to share my experiences of working in Parliament over the years. Better representation in Parliament is an important building block for a fairer society but we still have a long way to go. As a result of the sexual abuse and bullying inquiry, all MPs are required to take “valuing everyone training”. With many other Black and Asian staffers routinely experiencing racism, it's clear that MPs need similar training on racism and diversity.



Clamping down on tax avoidance

Ahead of June's G7 summit, Labour put pressure on the Chancellor to get behind Joe Biden's plan to tackle global tax avoidance, which sucks billions of pounds out of the public coffers every single year.

Off the back of a strong rearguard action from Rishi Sunak, the G7 agreed on a global minimum rate of 15%, which compared to the 21% initially proposed, is the equivalent of using a colander to drain rice. The exemption he is now lobbying for on financial services in the City of London is the equivalent of dumping that rice straight into the sink. I'll keep pushing for a more equitable international arrangement that does as much as possible to ensure the super rich pay their fair share.

People's Vaccine

I've long pushed for the Government to support international calls to ensure pharmaceutical companies share life-saving vaccine technology, first raising this issue in Parliament on January 19th. The fact that we are in a position where we have to ask pharmaceutical companies nicely to share life-saving vaccine technology that was overwhelmingly funded by public money shows how fundamentally broken our system is.

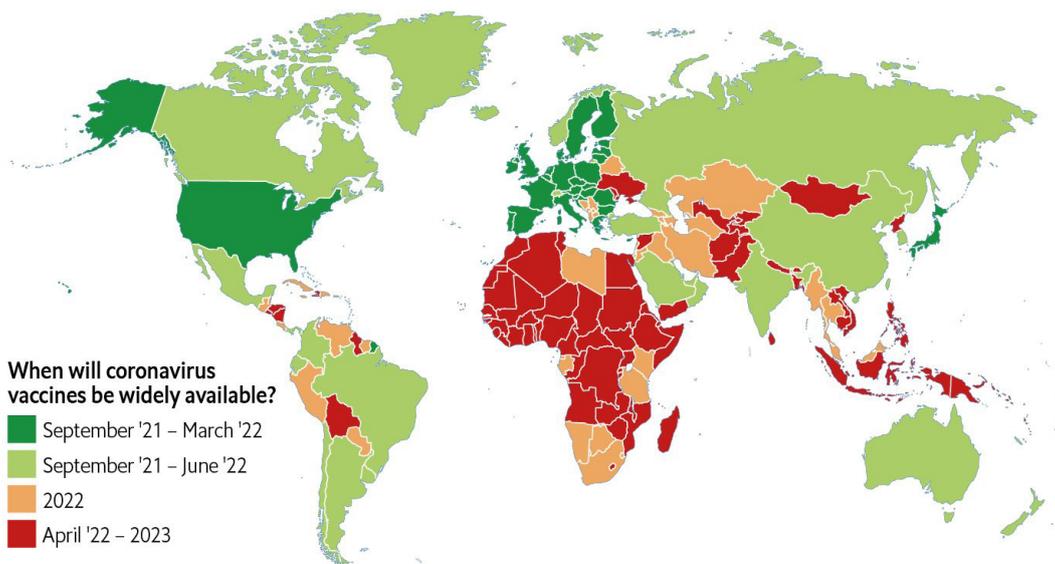
The UK has signed deals for up to 569,000,000 vaccine doses - enough to fully inoculate our population four times over. Meanwhile, not a single patent holder has used the WHO's Covid Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) voluntarily. Waiving the patent rights would kickstart the process of scaling up vaccine manufacture by enabling idle factories in countries across the world to produce additional doses for low-income countries. Now that the US has backed a temporary IP waiver, it's absolutely crucial that the UK doesn't stand in the way of this any longer. We will not end the pandemic unless we end vaccine apartheid.



Britain is the only G7 country refusing to back plans for a global minimum corporation tax.

Why would our millionaire Chancellor, who married into a family of billionaires & has concealed his financial interests in the past, be trying to block a plan to tackle tax avoidance? 🤔

Rich countries will get access to coronavirus vaccines earlier than others



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit.

I wrote for [Labour Outlook](#) on the need to suspend patents and scale up vaccine production.

EU Settlement Scheme

ARE YOU AN EU NATIONAL LIVING IN LAMBETH?

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

**APPLY TO THE
EU SETTLEMENT
SCHEME NOW**

30
JUNE 2021



Need help, or more information?

Citizens Advice via Lambeth Adviceline
(0344 488 9625) or www.cam1.org.uk

IRMO Phone:
07422 667327 or info@irmo.org.uk



There's less than a month to go until the deadline for the Government's EU Settlement Scheme. At the start of May, there were still at least 320,000 EU citizens waiting to hear their fate, with more than 40,000 in South London alone. And that's just of the people who've been able to apply.

One survey found that as many as one in seven EU employees were unaware they needed to regularise their status, with really worrying implications for the UK care sector and the 113,000 EU citizens working in it. Thanks to the way the Government set up the Settlement scheme, the majority of the 3,700 EU children in care are not even registered for Settled Status, let alone on a pathway to citizenship.

There is a very easy way out of the mess that is the EU Settlement Scheme: lifting the deadline, offering automatic settled status for anyone resident in the UK as of December 2020, and giving children who grow up in the UK a lifelong right to register for citizenship for free. Sadly, this Government's attachment to hard-line immigration policies and driving down net migration means these common-sense approaches are off the table. I'll continue to stand up for our European neighbours in Parliament and hold the Tories to account for this.

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