

# BELL RIBEIRO-ADDY MP

## Monthly Report, September 2021



### We must change the culture of impunity in the Met

This month, the police officer who abducted, raped, and murdered Sarah Everard was sentenced to a whole-life prison term. Wayne Couzens' conviction is not justice, but it's the start of something that looks like accountability.

The details that came out of the courtroom during his sentencing were absolutely sickening. Couzens used his police identification to lure Sarah into his car and handcuff her on the basis that she had violated Covid-19 rules. The court heard how all the evidence suggested he had used a police-issued belt to strangle her to death.

In the aftermath, we saw a tone-deaf response from the Met leadership, who offered patronising advice to women (which reinforces the idea that it's our job to ensure we are not attacked) and tried to distance themselves from Couzens. Clearly, Sarah's murder was an extreme instance, but it has rightly put the spotlight back on the problem of institutional misogyny within policing.

It's not just one bad apple. Couzens was nicknamed "the rapist" by colleagues who clearly recognised that he made women feel uncomfortable. We know he continued to serve in spite of multiple allegations of sexual misconduct. Indeed, an FOI request by ByLine Times found that over half of officers found guilty of sexual misconduct from 2016-2020 kept their jobs.

Couzens exchanged misogynistic, racist and homophobic WhatsApp messages with police colleagues. A senior officer who raised similar concerns about a similar WhatsApp chat wasn't just ignored by the Met Commissioner and the Home Secretary when she wrote to them, she was quietly moved out of a job.

Couzens didn't just slip through the net. He was left free to murder Sarah Everard by a systematic failure to hold male officers accountable. In this context, police commitments to ramp up numbers and put plain clothes detectives in night clubs aren't just inadequate, they're worrying. We don't need to expand the police force, we need accountability and transparency from it.

The inquiry announced by the Government is a start but needs to go much further, with broader terms of reference that relate to misogyny in policing more generally – not just this one case. With the Met's track record of resisting transparency in similar investigations, it's also vital that this inquiry has the statutory power to compel witnesses to give evidence.

Watch my video calling for [accountable policing](#)

# In the Constituency

## Migrant Connections Festival

I had the best time at this month's Migrant Connections, festival hosted in Streatham by the South London Refugee Association. It's so important to celebrate the massive contribution people from around the world have made and continue to make to our area - especially with the Government's ongoing attacks on migrants.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated any already difficult situation for many migrant communities and has made all forms of different inequalities in our society more visible. Many migrants struggle to access safe housing and public funds due to their immigration status. It's great to see SLRA's lived experience campaign, pushing for an end to the hostile environment and a country where all migrants can build stable, independent lives and fulfil their full potential.

I'm grateful to local organisations and individuals in and around Streatham for providing a warm welcome to people settling here and fighting for a fair and humane immigration system in the face of the Government's hostile environment. As the Government pushes ahead with new plans that fail, scapegoat and punish refugees, their work is more vital than ever.



## Touring St Margaret's Church

Thank you to St Margaret's Church for your grand tour of the new church facilities. These renovations will enable them to open up their space to the local community and expand their current offering of support to local residents. St Margaret's is already home to four South London food banks and will be offering support to young and old across our community over the years ahead. Food banks (like food insecurity) aren't just about food and it's good to see them doing even more to support people who are struggling to make ends meet. Tackling food insecurity means tackling its root causes: inequality and poverty.



## Thanking vaccine volunteers at Baldry Gardens

This month, I got the chance to thank vaccine volunteers from Baldry Gardens, who helped to deliver more than 20,000 Covid vaccine doses to people in our area - including me! I'm so grateful to the local volunteers, NHS workers and council staff in Streatham who have led the vaccine rollout and made it so successful. With the rate of vaccinations slowing in the UK compared to other European countries while infections remain much higher than average, it's really important that we all do our part to encourage uptake.



## Vandalism at the Rookery

I was really saddened to hear about the vandalism of memorial benches at The Rookery this month. Green spaces like the Rookery are important sources of entertainment, exercise and escapism for the whole community - especially over the last year - so it's a real shame to see it abused like this. Streatham Common Co-Operative and Friends of Streatham Common are now fundraising to restore and replace the benches and install CCTV at the site. If you have the means, please consider donating to their appeal: [https://paypal.com/donate/?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=D4VVF GALDAV5N&source=url](https://paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=D4VVF GALDAV5N&source=url)

## Summer surgeries: Here to Help

This summer, I've been making an extra effort to encourage constituents to come along and raise issues with me. Since my last report, I've hosted pop-up surgeries at Windmill Gardens, Streatham Common GP Practice and the South London Islamic Centre.

Ensuring MPs are accessible to our constituents is a key part of our democracy. I was shocked and devastated by the news of David Amess's murder during a constituency surgery. Attacks on individuals who have been chosen by their communities are an attack on the democratic process itself but they only harden our resolve to carry out our job as elected representatives.



## Fundraising to fight the Hostile Environment

A massive congratulations to my constituent Celestine Agbo, who completed his tenth marathon in as many days earlier this week: a massive 262 miles in 10 days. His efforts have raised £15,000 to help SLRA carry out vital work supporting people in our area. While the Government might do next to nothing to actively support refugees, we live in a community that believes in solidarity and charity.



## Streatham Common Dog Show

The Friends of Streatham Common have really gone the extra mile this month with not one but two big events. We kicked off the month with the Streatham Common Dog Show and a display of talent from some of Streatham's finest canine friends, with a whole host of prizes handed out - including the illustrious Waggiest Tail category and the much-coveted Dog that looks most like its owner award. A fun day out for all the family with a host of local food stalls to boot.



## Streatham Wind Day

A big thank you is in order too to the Friends of Streatham Common volunteers who made this year's Streatham Wind Day another soaring success. While low winds meant it wasn't possible to get as many kites in the air as usual, the only kite festival in London will be back next year, bigger and better than ever.

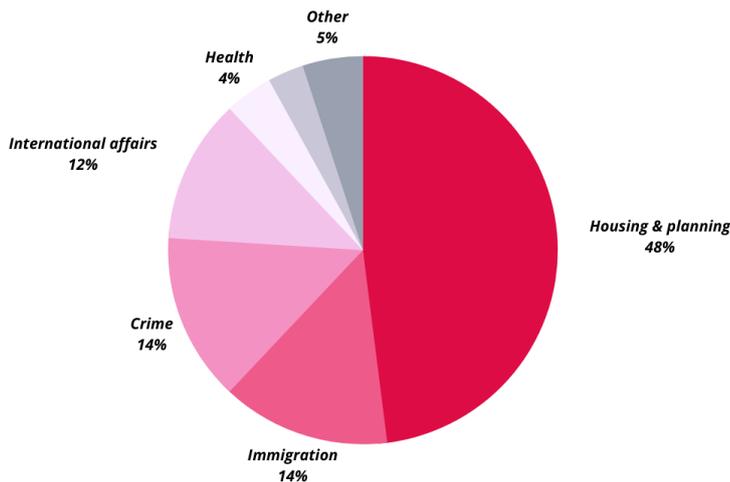


## Stop and search is a blunt instrument

This month, a 13-year-old-boy came away from a stop and search in Streatham Hill with a swollen eye and bleeding wrists. His crime? Carrying an afro comb. In the wake of this incident, I reiterated my call for a review of the policy. Ramping up stop and search is just another Tory excuse to look tough on crime whilst refusing to fund the solutions that would actually prevent knife crime: whether that's reversing cuts and investing in youth services, addressing school exclusions, or a clearer focus on community policing. Evidence-based stop and search can play a role in keeping people safe, but random stop and search is a blunt instrument, which is clearly discriminatory and dangerously counter-productive. It's time for a rethink.

# Casework

In the month of September, we have still received a number of cases where constituents have been seeking assistance for family members affected by the recent unrest in Kabul. My team have continued to work to raise all cases as a matter of urgency to the Foreign and Home Offices to ensure that they will be assisted to evacuate the country. The majority of casework issues in September comprised of housing and planning issues for constituents, where residents required assistance with disrepair, bidding for local council housing and anti-social behaviour.



## September Statistics

### Correspondence

In the run-up to the Chancellor's Autumn Spending Review and the COP26 Conference in Glasgow, we have received a high number of correspondences regarding climate action and the environment. Some issues highlighted include holding the government to account on their climate breakdown targets, calling on the government to kickstart investment by funding a fair and affordable switch to greener, cleaner heating to meet their climate goals, and halting the proposal to drill for oil in Cambo Field in the Shetlands. During a month where furlough is ending and Universal Credit is being cut by £20 a week, many constituents have also raised concerns over the consequences of this change, which will see many households in our area driven further into poverty.

### Canvassing

It was great to start the month canvassing with members from Streatham Wells and St Leonard's to show residents we're listening and give them a chance to raise their issues. If you'd like me to come out with your branch, just drop my office an email.



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](mailto: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)

# In Parliament

## Black Maternal Health Awareness Week 2021

Black women in the UK are FOUR times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth. Shockingly, the Government doesn't have a plan to change this or address glaring racial disparities in maternal health, which mean Black women are more likely to experience miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death and near misses during their maternity.

This month, I secured a Westminster Hall debate on Black Maternal Health to hold their feet to the fire over this and urge them to listen to what campaigners on the issue are telling them to do: set binding targets to end Black women's traumatic birth experiences.

When I have raised this issue in the past, the Government has pointed to its continuity care programme. But while this plan looks good on paper, all the evidence suggests that this could end up endangering more women with high-risk pregnancies if they fail to tackle longstanding staff shortages in the NHS (including 2,000+ midwives).



**Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP**   
@BellRibeiroAddy

Black women in the UK are:  
4x more likely to die in pregnancy & childbirth  
2x more likely to experience stillbirth  
80-83% more likely to have a near miss  
50% more likely to experience neonatal death  
43% more likely to miscarry

The Govt don't have targets to end this [#BMHAW21](#)

**Watch my contribution to the [debate](#)**

The Government has known about racial disparities in maternity care for a long time but still hasn't made a binding commitment to eliminate them. As for an action plan, they could do worse than following the example of the Biden-Harris administration in the USA, who have been taking meaningful action to tackle their own fourfold disparity.

This year's Black Maternal Health Awareness Week is a reminder that we need to see some concrete commitments. If the Government is not part of the solution, it's part of the problem.

## Launching the Black Maternal Health All-Party Parliamentary Group

This month, I was also delighted to announce the official launch of the cross-party APPG on Black Maternal Health. The colour of a mother's skin should have no impact on her health outcomes or her baby's. MPs from this group will be working to ensure that decision-makers recognise this and take action accordingly.

**I wrote on [Black Maternal Health](#) for South London Press**

## A shameful end to a shameful war

This month, I highlighted the Government's disgraceful failures in the evacuation of Afghanistan. Last month, my team and I worked flat out to try and help constituents with loved ones trapped abroad. From British nationals trapped in Kabul to young children seeking to be reunited with their parents, siblings or grandparents, to former UK-contracted personnel stuck in hiding in fear for their lives, MPs' offices were presented with some of the most harrowing cases. Listening to them and reading them profoundly affected our staff in particular.

When we raised these cases with the Government on behalf of the dozens of people who contacted us to say their loved ones were in danger, the least we expected was a reply. When the UK called time on our evacuation, I still hadn't had a single response from the Home Office, Foreign Office or the Ministry of Defence. A Foreign Office whistleblower revealed that thousands of emails were sitting in the department's inbox unread. Something similar was clearly going on in the other departments.

Instead of helping Afghan refugees, the Government is once again making plans to deport them back to the danger it has helped create. I also used this debate to highlight forthcoming legislation which will make it harder for refugees to seek sanctuary in the UK: the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill.

After 20 years of UK military involvement in Afghanistan, we have a duty to help people who've fled the country. They should be doing all they can to resettle people and help them rebuild their lives, not bringing in Bills that make this impossible for many.

Watch the [contribution](#) I made in the Chamber

## Standing up for LGBTQ+ refugees

In this month's Westminster Hall debate on supporting LGBTQ+ Afghan refugees, I highlighted the Government's past failures to protect LGBTQ+ refugees and the damage future Tory legislation will have on their right to seek safety in the UK. To make matters worse, the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill will drastically limit the ability of those facing persecution to apply for asylum in the UK.

LGBTQ+ Afghan refugees are among the most vulnerable in the world. Persecuted from all corners by the former Afghan Government, the current Taliban regime, unsafe resettlement camps, hostile neighbouring third countries and, perhaps most saddeningly, by their own families and communities.

I highlighted Lambeth Labour's letter calling for urgent action to protect the lives of LGBTQ+ refugees in and displaced from Afghanistan and echoed Stonewall, Rainbow Migration and other charities' calls for LGBTQ+ Afghan refugees to be given safe haven in the UK.

The Government must honour this country's moral and legal obligations to persecuted individuals in a situation that would not have been possible without our intervention. What is needed now is compassionate leadership and a response that respects and protects the rights of LGBTQ+ asylum seekers.

Watch my Westminster Hall debate [contribution](#)

## We can't let privatisation be the future of our NHS

I was glad to take part in my colleague Richard Burgon's debate on the future of the NHS. I paid tribute to the NHS heroes who got us through this pandemic and called on the Government to give them the 15% pay rise they're asking for to reverse the damage of a decade of real terms pay cuts. I also called on the Government to protect the NHS's founding principle and to stop embarking on another top-down organisation which is only going to make their jobs harder.

From test and trace to PPE, the pandemic has shown how dangerous it is to outsource and privatise essential public services for profit and pure private gain. A Government who cared about the success of our NHS would halt any further attempts at privatisation. The Tories are pushing through the Health and Care Bill, which rolls out the red carpet for companies in our NHS.

Privatisation is not just some abstract thing happening in the distant future either. It's happening right here, right now, right under our noses. The Tories recently allowed the stealth sell-off of GP surgeries in Streatham to Centene, a profit-greedy American health corporation. Centene is a company that is bigger than Pepsi and Disney, and almost as big as Boeing. Putting local surgeries in the hands of a company whose market strategy is to exit non-profit making NHS contracts means shareholder profit will always come before quality of care in future.

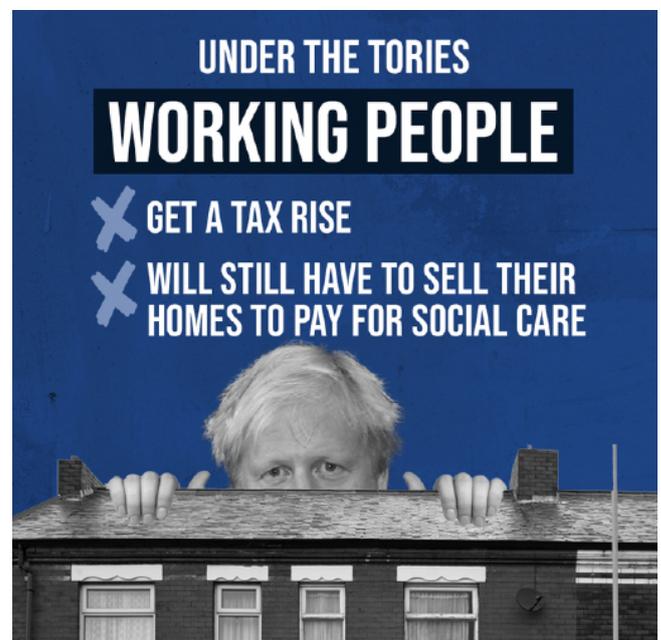
The Government must learn from the failures of the last 18 months, pay NHS workers properly, stop the sell-off of our local surgeries and end the privatisation of our NHS.

Watch [part of my contribution here](#)

## Health and social care levy

I voted against Tory plans to increase National Insurance contributions this month, a move which will disproportionately hit low earners. I backed an amendment calling for a wealth tax on the super rich. After a year when UK billionaires raked in £106.5 billion and ordinary households saw a big income hit, we should be taxing people who have hoarded wealth for too long, not people who work to create it.

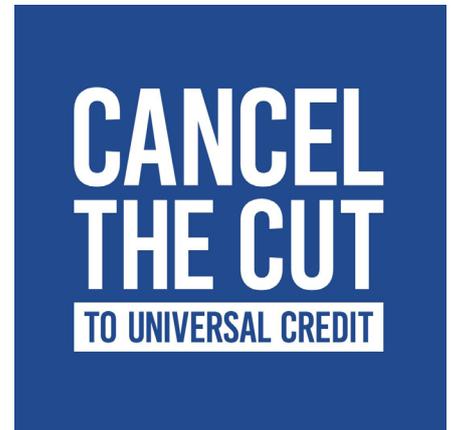
As well as paying for change on the backs of the wrong people, these plans don't touch the sides of what is now needed to tackle the UK's growing social care crisis. There are millions of old and young people with unmet care needs in the UK. For too long, social care has been treated as the poor cousin of frontline health services and there is a longstanding staffing crisis in the industry - which will only worsen as demand increases. Rather than propping up the current broken model, we should fight for a properly resourced National Care Service run on the same principles as the NHS: universal care, free at the point of use to anyone who needs it, funded by progressive taxation.



## Cancel the Cut

Ahead of the Government's plan to slash Universal Credit by £1040 a year, I joined Labour colleagues to vote against this cruel cut. This decision will hit 5.5m+ families across the UK, including 13,800 in our constituency, with 6,910 children among them.

Universal Credit is already one of the least generous social security systems in the developed world. Cutting it back further will plunge millions into poverty and hardship. The Government insist that slashing Universal Credit will get people into work. But when 60% of the families who likely to be hit by this cut are already working, it's clear that cutting Universal Credit won't push people into jobs, it will push them into poverty.



## The people we vote for should want us to vote

Boris Johnson wrote in a Telegraph column in 2004, "If I am ever asked to produce an ID Card... I will take that card out of my wallet and physically eat it". With the Government's Elections Bill back in Parliament this month, he may have to do precisely this at the next election.

This Voter Suppression Bill risks disenfranchising the 3.5 million people who don't own a form of Photo ID. We know that bringing in compulsory photo ID for elections will disproportionately disenfranchise Black, Asian and minority ethnic voters. That's exactly why the Tories are pushing ahead with this Republican-style attempt to rig the system.

I'm of the old-fashioned belief that democracy is letting voters pick people to represent them, not the other way round. The Government should be doing everything they can to ensure people can participate in the democratic process. Instead, they are planning to spend £120m to lock more people out of voting.

## Workplaces should be abuse-free zones

I was proud to support my friend Olivia Blake's Bill to tackle physical and verbal abuse against retail staff. When nine in ten shop workers have faced abuse during coronavirus restrictions, it's clear that more protections are needed to ensure they are treated with basic respect.

### I'm supporting the Bill to end the abuse of frontline staff

*It's shocking to hear reports of the verbal and physical abuse public facing workers receive. More protections are needed to ensure that no one is abused when they are doing their job.*

**BELL RIBEIRO-ADDY**  
MP for Streatham

[tinyurl.com/endabuseatwork](https://tinyurl.com/endabuseatwork)

#EndtheAbuse



# Conference 2021 report

After the imposed isolation of the last year, it was great to be able to regroup with Labour members, colleagues, campaigners and trade unionists at this year's conference in Brighton. The driving force behind our party is the ordinary people from up and down the country who dedicate their time and energy to make the country and the world a better place.



## Leadership election changes

The initial proposal for a return to the electoral college system would have given my vote as an MP the same weight as our entire CLP. This was thankfully amended before it reached conference. However, the leadership rule change that narrowly passed will have a similar effect. In particular, the decision to increase the threshold for leadership elections to 20% of MPs could still put overwhelming weight behind the PLP's chosen candidate. If previous leadership contests were conducted under these rules, just one woman and not a single Black person would have made it onto the ballot paper.

We should be looking at ways to engage our mass membership and trade union movement in all its diversity. Our Party is at its strongest when we can have a full and democratic debate. We will only create a successful movement by building welcoming, engaging spaces and focusing on bringing people into the fold.

## Policy motions passed

There were some important motions passed at this year's conference. I was elated to see Labour for a Green New Deals' Green Jobs Revolution motion passed with overwhelming support. It's time for us to listen to members and make the case for a socialist Green New Deal to tackle the climate emergency and the inequalities fuelling it. I was also pleased to hear Keir Starmer commit to increased climate investment and a Green New Deal in his Leaders conference speech.

The unanimous passage of the Right to Food motion, which my colleague Ian Byrne MP has tirelessly campaigned on, was also another highlight of conference. Other motions passed include a £15 per hour minimum wage, sick pay at living wage, an end to fire and rehire, a ban on zero hours contracts, a National Care Service run like the NHS, public ownership of energy, rail, mail and broadband, condemnation of the AUKUS Treaty, and solidarity with Palestine.

Sign and share Labour and Palestine's [statement](#)

## Health Poverty Action - A Racial Justice and Global Health Approach to Drug Policy

The UK is the drugs overdose capital of Europe. Last year, drug overdoses in England & Wales reached record highs, with 4,561 people dying from drug poisoning. There was overwhelming consensus among panellists that Labour needs to back a harm reduction approach, end the war on drugs and start to address the deep damage it has inflicted on minoritised and working class communities over the last 50 years.



We need to recognise that all the evidence shows we have better outcomes when we focus on supporting people rather than punishing them. Prison often isn't the right place to address people's drug addictions. Diversion policies to take people away from prison would mean freeing up additional resource to help people break the cycle of addiction like wrap-around services and treatment rooms. The difference this would make to communities up and down the countries could be enormous.



### Trade Union Co-ordinating Group Fringe - Fair Pay for Key Workers

If the bravery of our key workers has proved one thing, it's that the real value of your work doesn't correlate with your income in the UK. There is no such thing as low skilled work, just low paid work. I joined Trade Union Co-ordinating Group to talk about how the pandemic has exposed the scandal of poverty wages and insecure work.

Rather than repaying essential workers with a pay rise, the Government decided to introduce a public sector pay freeze and introduce several measures that will squeeze the finances of these key workers. After a decade of wage stagnation, it's really important for Labour to stand up for better pay and conditions. That means opposing fire and rehire in no uncertain terms and supporting the trade unions in their push for a £15 per hour minimum wage and inflation-busting pay rises for the public sector workers' whose salaries were cut in real terms.

### Big Brother Watch

During the pandemic, the Government chose to punish people instead of protecting them. I joined Big Brother Watch for a robust discussion about the continued attack on our civil liberties and what we can do to stop this Tory authoritarianism from becoming the new normal. It's so important that Labour campaigns to unite civil libertarians against the onslaught on our hard-won rights and freedoms.

## Fire Brigades Union - Decent, Safe Homes For All



Four years on from Grenfell, millions of people are still caught up in the cladding scandal thanks to the Government's refusal to enforce a polluter pays principle. I joined the Fire Brigades Union's Ethnic Minority Members section to speak on the cladding scandal. Firefighters have been fighting tirelessly for people trapped in unsafe homes, schools and offices in spite of multiple attempts to shift the blame for Grenfell onto them.

People shouldn't have to shell out just to ensure they don't burn to death in their own homes. The Conservatives have promised again and again that leaseholders will not bear the cost of the cladding scandal but have voted against Labour amendments that would have protected people again and again. A safe and secure home is one of the most basic human needs but under this Government it is being denied to far too many.

## Labour and Palestine - Speaking up for Palestine

I was proud to join Labour and Palestine to speak up for Palestine, calling for a clear commitment to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people from across our party. The conference motion passed this month by Labour members in support of rights for Palestinians was a huge step forwards.

It was a careful, measured, but very powerful resolution, which called for an end to impunity, demanding a suspension of arms sales until the ICC reports on potential war crimes, opposing the annexation and occupation of land, supporting the right to return and the right to life, and promoting sanctions in response to repeated illegal actions. I will keep campaigning for a policy towards Palestine that actively upholds human rights and international law.



## Institute for Public Policy Research - Improving access to legal and other essential consumer services

Justice shouldn't only be for the wealthy. The right to a fair hearing is enshrined in our laws: universal and inalienable to all in society. Unfortunately, what's preached is too often not what's practiced. It was great to join the Institute for Public Policy Research for a wide-ranging discussion on creating a more 'people-centred' approach to improving access to justice, particularly for people from minoritised and working-class communities.

I was elected on a manifesto that committed to helping people uphold their rights and taking a range of action from reversing the cuts to legal aid we've seen over the last decade to improving civic education in schools and embedding advice services in local communities.



# Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament - How can we fight the UK's nuclear arsenal Increase?



It was an honour to join the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and Jeremy Corbyn on the UN International Day of Peace to discuss the fight for a world free from the threat of nuclear annihilation. We talked about what we can do to stop the Tories threatening world peace.

The Government's decision to expand our nuclear stockpile by 40% flies in the face of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In another move typical of this government, they are also intending to stop giv-

ing public figures for the nuclear arsenal, making it more difficult to scrutinise the expense involved in developing these weapons.

I'd urge everyone in our CLP to join the recently launched Lambeth branch of CND and campaign against these decisions. Nuclear weapons are not a deterrent, because the modern threats to our security do not come from traditional war with nation-states. We will not build a meaningful security on the threat of mass destruction.

## LabourList - Fighting the Tory crackdown on our rights

It was great to join LabourList's fantastic all-female panel of civil libertarians to discuss the Tory crackdown on our rights and why must keep organising against it. If there's one thing that we know for sure, it's that this Government is far more interested in cracking down on everyone than it is in levelling up for everyone. Again and again, they've they're not interested in fixing the damage of the last eighteen months and delivering, they're interested in consolidating wealth and power.

The only serious Bills in this year's Queen Speech were intended to stop anyone from challenging them: whether by curtailing the right to protest, disenfranchising people less likely to vote for them, attacking the power of the courts to hold them to account, or trying to drag the centre of political gravity rightwards across our schools and universities.

We also shouldn't be intimidated by the Tories' majority - with enough public pressure and political opposition, we can fight back against this crackdown. Our fight to defend our democratic rights won't be won in Parliament, it will be won in the streets.



# The World Transformed - Attacked Together, Resisting Together

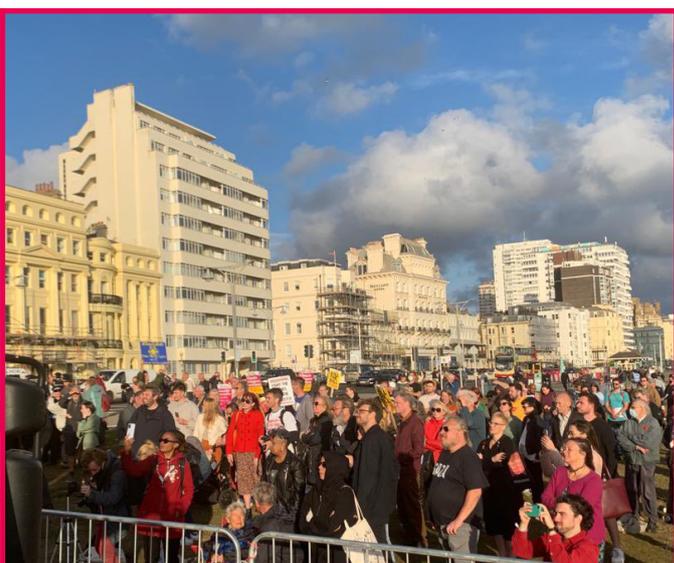


The World Transformed was also back in Brighton this year and bigger than ever. The Police Crackdown Bill is an attack on the working class in all its diversity and everyone's hard-won rights. I joined a fantastic panel of campaigners, including Gracie Mae-Bradley of Liberty, Lois Jones of Traveller Pride, and Zehrah Hasan of Black Protest Legal Support, to talk about how we build solidarity across struggles and stand together to Kill the Bill.

Today's protests are the signposts of tomorrow's progress and the people this Bill attacks are the ones who are going to win our future rights. It's crucial that we organise in every community to carry out a genuine grassroots resistance to these changes.

## Assembling against austerity

It was good to join Labour Assembly and People's Assembly Against Austerity to talk about how we make sure working people are not the only ones left picking up the bill for the Tories' unequal handling of the pandemic. We must come together and keep coming out to build our movement for the many and resist these attacks.



# Campaigns



## Cancel the Cut

When cabinet ministers lose their jobs, they get a £17,000 golden goodbye. When workers in the UK lose their jobs, they get some of the biggest earning losses in the developed world. The Tories' cut to Universal Credit would mean households in our area losing a further £1040 a year on top of National Insurance hikes, energy bill hikes, inflation, and goods shortages.

I was out campaigning this month with Labour colleagues and my union Unite to oppose Tory plans to snatch £20 a week from struggling families. We have to keep fighting Tory plans to shred our social safety net and campaign for the restoration of the lifeline.

## Shame on Ocado

Ocado couriers toiled through the pandemic, often for very low pay, to deliver groceries and other items. They have now seen their pay slashed by up to 70% whilst company CEO Tim Steiner takes home a salary of £1,000,000 a week. Luckily, couriers aren't taking this lying down. I'm supporting IWGB members in their campaign to demand fair pay and conditions. The pandemic has made it clear how much we rely on the people who deliver the things we need. Ocado must deliver the decent working conditions they deserve.

**KEY WORKERS DESERVE FAIR PAY AND CONDITIONS.**

*"I support IWGB's #ShameOnOcado campaign."*

**BELL RIBEIRO-ADDY MP**



**iWGB** [#ShameOnOcado](#)

## Bye bye DSEI

This month, I added my name to Campaign Against the Arms Trade UK's statement, calling on the Government to end its damaging policy of promoting arms exports and look to diplomatic solutions instead. Arms dealers who sell death to human rights abusers should not be welcome in our city. I was pleased to see our Labour Mayor taking a clear stand against the Defence and Security Equipment International, telling them to cancel this year's arms fair and never return.

The DSEI extends invitations to governments and militaries around the world, including many that are involved in conflict or that openly abuse human rights. The DSEI takes place in East London, a place where many people who have fled conflicts have made their homes and rebuilt their lives.

## Statement by London MPs in opposition to the DSEI arms fair

I am strongly opposed to the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair which is taking place at ExCeL London from 14 to 17 September this year, in London's Docklands. DSEI, one of the world's biggest arms fairs, is organised by Clarion Events and the Government's arms sales unit, Defence & Security Exports, and is expected to play host to more than 1,600 arms companies selling everything from guns and bombs to fighter jets and warships.

London, one of the most vibrant and welcoming cities in the world, and home to many people who have fled conflict, has no place exhibiting weapons which inflict suffering and displacement on a global scale. Our city is not a haven for trade with countries that contributed to grievous human rights violations.

When the Blitz began in September 1940 London's Docklands bore the brunt, with over 25,000 bombs falling on the Docklands over the course of the war. By the end of World War II, the damage to the East End left much of the area in ruins and almost 30,000 Londoners had been killed. Now DSEI promotes weapons on the very site of this destruction, against the values, history and spirit of our city.

I call on the Government to end the promotion and export of military equipment, to withdraw its support for DSEI and to undertake a complete overhaul of security policy to replace military sales with diplomatic collaboration.

Diane Abbott MP

Apsana Begum MP

Jeremy Corbyn MP

John McDonnell MP

Kate Osamor MP

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP

## Chairing event with local Lambeth campaigns to end arms sales to human rights abusers

From the Israeli bombing of civilians in Gaza, to the Saudi-led war in Yemen, UK arms traders are supplying the weapons used to commit war crimes, human rights abuses and enable disastrous military interventions like Afghanistan. They are able to do so by export licenses granted by our own Government. On paper, the UK has some of the most stringent controls in the world on arms exports. In practice, Government ministers frequently ignore the law in order to support bombing.

Among the criteria used to determine if an export license is granted should be whether or not those arms might be used deliberately or recklessly to target civilians. In the aftermath of the DSEI, I joined local campaigners from Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Stop the War and Palestine Solidarity Campaign to discuss how we can stop the Government supplying human rights abusers with weapons.



**End the weapons trade! Stop the war crimes!**  
For peace, international justice, and nuclear disarmament

**Mon 20 Sep @ 7pm**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP Louise Regan PSC**  
**Murad Qureshi STW Carol Turner CND**  
**and John McGrath DSA**

Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 2021  
supported by Lambeth & Wandsworth PSC  
and Democratic Socialists of America UK Chapter





## FareShare's Food on Plates campaign

It's been a pleasure to support the work of FareShare, a food poverty charity who get thousands of meals to people in Lambeth every year. The amount of food waste we have in the UK is enough to ensure nobody goes hungry. It's scandalous that we throw away the equivalent of 1.3 billion meals every year whilst millions face food poverty. This month, I've been supporting Fare Share's Food on Plates campaign calling on the Government to get fresh, nutritious unsold food onto the plates of those who need it.

We've seen an unprecedented rise in food insecurity since the start of the pandemic. Right now, it's important to do whatever it takes to get food to people but in the long run, what is really needed is action to tackle the underlying cause of rising food bank use: rising poverty. That means addressing the fact that the UK has the meanest social security system in the developed world and pushing back against Tory plans for a low wage economy.

## National food bank day

Local food bank use has surged even higher during the pandemic. People shouldn't be left relying on charity to feed themselves in a wealthy country like ours. Food banks shouldn't exist but as long as they do, we must support them, including our own fantastic local food banks: Brixton Norwood Foodbank and Clapham Park Foodbank. The Universal Credit cut will mean even more people in Streatham are left relying on food banks. For a lot of people, £20 a week is the difference between feeding themselves or not. Please help Brixton and Norwood Foodbank by texting HARVEST plus the amount (up to £20) to 70580.

**TEXT  
HARVEST  
PLUS AMOUNT (UP TO £20)  
TO 70580**

**Donate to Brixton and Norwood Foodbank**

# Meeting our movement



Beu Ribeiro-Addy

## Contact Me

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