



# TULIP SIDDIQ MP

## JUNE NEWSLETTER



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### INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon,

I hope this finds you well and thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter.

I would like to begin by paying tribute to my predecessor as MP for Hampstead and Kilburn Glenda Jackson, who passed away on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. She was an incredible representative for the area and will be greatly missed. You can see my full thoughts on Glenda below.

It has been an incredibly busy month in the world of politics. We have seen Boris Johnson stepping down as a Member of Parliament, the release of a very serious report by the privileges committee in relation to the Partygate scandal, and the controversy around Boris Johnson's resignation honours list. There will now be a by-election in Uxbridge on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, and I have been busy as the Political Lead for the Labour Party's campaign in the constituency.

Meanwhile, and really concerningly, inflation figures showed that it had held at 8.7%, leading to the Bank of England increasing interest rates to 5%. One of the primary impacts on this will be on people with mortgages, and I have been working with the Shadow Treasury Team to look at how we can best support people at this difficult time. Labour has announced a package of support measures which you can read more about [here](#). I have also been doing a lot of work on the issue of how the asylum system treats people, including speaking at a Nisa Nishim event about how women fare, as well as again raising the shocking issue of migrant children going missing from Home Office-run hotels both in Parliament and in articles in both the Ham & High and the Brent and Kilburn Times.

In local news, you might have read that unfortunately there are going to be two bank closures in the constituency, including Barclays and Halifax on Finchley Rd, in addition to other recent announcements about branch closures. My biggest concern is about the impact on elderly constituents as well as the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community who often choose to bank mostly or entirely in person. This is something I have been raising and tabling amendments to legislation on as Shadow City Minister, and I have written to all the banks which are closing branches in my constituency to push them for protections for local consumers and staff.

I would like to say a massive congratulations to Tommy Gale, the new councillor for South Hampstead! Tommy is a fantastic champion for the local area, and I could tell from the reaction I got on the doorstep while campaigning for him that he was going to be a success. I know that he is going to work as hard as he can to deliver for the people of South Hampstead, and he has already been busy with casework from his first surgeries.

In sad news, Indhu Rabasingham will be stepping down as Artistic Director at the Kiln Theatre early next year, having been in the job for over a decade. I have been to so many of her productions, and I cannot thank her enough for allowing us to enjoy the products of her extraordinarily imaginative mind. Her contribution to the local community and legacy is staggering, and I will so miss being able to watch her productions at the Kiln. Thank you, Indhu, and the very best of luck for the future!

Once again, I hope you have a wonderful start to July and if you have any questions or if there are any issues you think I may be able to help with please do get in touch on [tulip.siddiq.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tulip.siddiq.mp@parliament.uk).

### **My Tributes to Glenda Jackson**

Glenda was someone who combined her glittering Hollywood career with being a formidable politician. I learned an incredible amount from her and had such an enormous amount of respect for her, from her powerful oratory, deeply kind heart, and magnificent acting. I will miss her greatly. I have written full tributes to Glenda for the Guardian, which you can read [here](#), and the Camden New Journal, which you can see [here](#).

I have been so moved by the reaction to the sad passing of my predecessor, friend, and mentor Glenda Jackson. I was grateful to be given the opportunity by BBC World at One and other media outlets to discuss how much Glenda helped me over the years, and to let the world know just how much of a role model she was to me and so many others in our community.

Glenda was a woman in love with social justice, a politician with a touch of class, the queen of Hampstead and my inspiring mentor. I will miss her and so will our local community.



### **Speaking out about School Building Safety**

I was pleased to be able to [speak](#) in the debate in Parliament about the safety of the country's school buildings. The Department for Education's annual report for 2021-2022 escalated the risk of school buildings collapsing across the country to 'Critical: Very Likely'. Further to this, 42 schools in Hampstead and Kilburn have at least 1 of the most flammable form of construction type building sections. This is really concerning, and it is clear that there is a considerable need for something to be done about the state of disrepair in our schools.

In Parliament, I raised the case of West Hampstead primary school, where the playground is cracking, the roof is breaking, and the windows can't be opened. It is vital that when we send our children to school, we know that the buildings they are in are safe. It is a great shame that we have reached a point where this seems to no longer be a guarantee, and it is very important that the Government provide this essential funding to schools. I hope my contribution in the debate prompts some action on the issue.



### Appearance on Newsnight

I appeared on Newsnight during the week that the report into Boris Johnson's behaviour as Prime Minister was released. As you can imagine, there was a lot to cover but I was so glad to have the opportunity to outline how strongly I feel about the result of the report, which found that Boris Johnson misled the House of Commons about what went on in Downing Street during lockdown. The report found that Boris Johnson should be banned from the House of Commons for 90 days and should not be given a parliamentary pass as former Prime Minister's usually are.

It was really important to make it clear just how serious the report was, and to represent the many people in Hampstead and Kilburn who are so angry at the former Prime Minister's actions.



## Encouraging Women and Minorities to Enter Politics

Encouraging more women of colour to enter the world of politics is something that is incredibly important to me, and I was delighted to [speak](#) at Centenary Action and Muslim Women's Network UK's event on the issue.

I really enjoyed sharing my experiences with the rest of the panel, and hearing about what they have been through and about so many fantastic achievements. It is so important that women of colour don't feel that they are not welcome in the political world, and that young girls of colour are able to look at elected officials and see themselves represented. Following the 2019 election, only 10% of MPs were from minority backgrounds, and just over half of these were women. It was recently found that only 8.3% of local authority councillors in England were from minority ethnic backgrounds. It is so important to do what we can to increase these numbers, and discussions like this are a great way of contributing to this process. Thank you to the team who set up such a worthwhile event.



## Speeches as Shadow City Minister

I had a really interesting [time](#) at the Investment Association Conference, where I gave a keynote speech on how the UK economy should develop and change as the world moves at an extraordinary pace.

The country needs to work out how our world leading financial services, energy, life sciences and tech sectors can allow us to take advantage of the rapidly developing technology and infrastructure at our disposal. I was able to mention things that are really important to me, like the need for a stronger relationship with the EU, the need for a new deal between the state and private sector, and how we can unlock the money needed for the green transition.



I also enjoyed speaking at a roundtable discussion (image above!) in my role as Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury with the FinTech Strategy Group, organising by Innovate Finance.

It's always so useful to hear from people in the business as we look towards writing the Labour manifesto for the next election, in this case discussing the FinTech landscape, and how the Government can adapt at speed to such a fastmoving sector.

### **Visiting Brondesbury Park Synagogue**

It was wonderful to visit Brondesbury Park synagogue with Councillor Neil Nerva and have a tour around the new building. It is an absolutely fantastic space, complete with multiple function rooms, a full catering set up, and even a nursery! The most incredible part, however, is the beautiful chapel room. I know the synagogue is really important to the community, and it is brilliant to see the new building in action.

I was also very glad to have a long discussion with Rabbi Baroch Levin, ex West-Hampstead Councillor and previous Head of Public Affairs at the Board of Deputies of British Jews Phil Rosenberg, and the Chair Victoria Portnoir about a whole range of issues, including Jewish schools and antisemitism. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the team at the synagogue for inviting me, and I am looking forward to going back.



### **Attending the UCL Academy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

A huge congratulations to UCL Academy in Swiss Cottage for reaching its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary! It was fantastic to be able to [join the celebrations](#), and listen to some fantastic speeches and performances by current students. The pupils that I spoke to at the event were a real credit to the school and I greatly enjoyed meeting them. I was proud to be able to give a speech and to be given the opportunity to let the school's community know just how impressed I am by UCL Academy.

Students and staff at the school do so much for the local community, and set a real example to us all.



## Celebrating another year of Parliament's Debating Group

While I spend a lot of my time contributing to debates in the House of Commons, it's nice to be able to listen to a debate unfold from the position of chair now and then! I had such a fantastic time [chairing](#) the Debating Group debate on AI and its impact on the world of marketing and public relations.

It was a joy listening to such interesting speeches from those speaking and I learnt a great deal. I'm really looking forward to taking part again in future! I am also grateful to the Debating Group for inviting me to speak at their annual reception, which was a great way of being able to pay tribute to all the amazing work that the group do.



## Visiting the Lighten the Load Campaign

It was a real pleasure to attend a reception in Parliament, organised by Maltesers and Comic Relief, to support the Lighten the Load campaign. The campaign mission is to empower women, encourage a greater understanding of what can be done to support working mothers, and how best to offer this to them.

As a working mum [myself](#), I know that the stresses and strains of combining a young family with a busy job can be difficult at times. There is only so much time in the day and new research shows 73% of working mums have to sacrifice elements of their job they previously enjoyed, in order to balance their work and home lives. It's often a tricky topic to talk about, and it's so important that campaigns like this open up the conversation, and work with mothers and workplaces to ensure that the best possible work environment is cultivated.



## Judging the Women's Prize for Fiction

Judging the Women's Prize for Fiction has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have been involved with since becoming an MP. The competition is so important for promoting the work of women authors, and though the volume was large, it has been nothing but a joy being able to put aside time to read these astonishing books. This month, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver was announced as our winner. It was such a tricky decision for us to make, but *Demon Copperhead* was an outstanding piece of work, and is a novel that will remain relevant for generations to come.

I'd like to say thank you to all the fantastic entries, as well as the wonderful other judges, Louise Minchin, Rachel Joyce, Bella Mackie and Irenosen Okojie who made my time with the competition such a joy.



## Community Bulletin

- Parliament's Education Centre have recently released their school visit sessions for the Autumn Term (September – December 2023). This is a great opportunity to engage students with Parliament by exploring its role and how they can get involved. If you are a local teacher and would like to arrange a visit, the centre can be contacted at [engage@parliament.uk](mailto:engage@parliament.uk), or reached via phone on 020 7219 4496.
- [Bookings are now live](#) for Camden Summer University, where you can make friends, learn new things, and boost your CV. It's free to enroll if you're 13 to 19 and either live in Camden, go to a local state school or attend a council-run youth centre. Bookings for the 2023 programme, which runs from Monday 24 July to Friday 25 August, are now live.