



# TULIP SIDDIQ MP

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



TULIP@TULIPSIDDIQ.COM



TULIPSIDDIQ.COM



@TULIPSIDDIQ

Good afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter.

I would like to begin by saying shanah tovah to all my Jewish constituents and I hope that you have a happy New Year.

After a busy summer of supporting constituents with casework, the last few weeks in Parliament have been very eventful and I was pleased to be reappointed by Keir Starmer as Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury, so I can continue to develop Labour's plans for the City.

One of the issues that has taken up a lot of time this month has been the crisis of the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in schools across the country. Unfortunately, the start of the new school year was chaotic and full of uncertainty for schools as many were asked to close just days before the start of term. I wrote to the Secretary of State of Education as well as all schools in Hampstead and Kilburn to ask for further clarity on the situation, and to offer any support to local schools. Fortunately, all schools in my constituency were able to open as scheduled, but I will be keeping a close eye on this issue locally and pressing the Government for action.

I would like to say thank you to all the teaching staff who dealt with the RAAC crisis so calmly and ensured that children and parents did not go through too much uncertainty. At the same time, we have also had A level results day recently. A huge congratulations to all those who have received their exam results this Summer - you have been through an incredible amount over the last few years, and I am always so impressed by the strength you have all shown in difficult times. Thank you also to the local school staff, parents, and carers who have supported children taking exams.

I have been to some fantastic events in the constituency this month, and a particular highlight was the celebrations on a car-free West End Lane as West Hampstead Amenity and Transport (WHAT) marked their 50th anniversary over the weekend. They do such fantastic work in standing up for the area and listening to the concerns of residents. Here's to another 50 years! You can read on to find out more about some of the other events I've attended, like the brilliant York Rise Street Party in Dartmouth Park and the licensing of the new Vicar of Emmanuel Church in West Hampstead.

I have also spent a lot of time recently talking about local and national issues in the media. Last week, I [spoke to](#) Times Radio, Sky News, LBC Radio and others about Labour's plans for the economy and the Prime Minister's shameful backtrack on this country's commitment to reaching net zero. I then went onto [ITV's Peston](#) where I was joined by Georgia Harrison, who is a powerful campaigner against violence towards women. It was fantastic to speak with her in the green room and to hear more about the inspirational work she does. I've also been busy writing articles in various newspapers and journals. If you are interested, here are some examples of some of this work:

- I commented in [the Guardian](#) about Labour's plans to unlock billions of private sector investment through our national wealth fund.
- I had a really interesting time speaking to Simon Osborne for his article in the Guardian about how to win an argument – you can find my top tips [here!](#)
- I wrote a piece for [City AM](#) which looked into the City's poor record on hiring people from working class backgrounds and what can be done to fix it.
- I contributed to an article in [the Independent](#) about what we can do to break free from our current low growth trap and end the cost of living crisis.
- In the [Ham&High](#), I spoke about my concern that more and more underage people are taking up vaping and why I think that we should ban the marketing of vapes to children.
- I also spoke to Katy Balls for an episode of her podcast [Women with Balls](#), speaking about what motivates me and my work to retain what was the most marginal seat in the country.

Thank you again for reading my newsletter, and I hope you are having a lovely end to your summer.

As usual, please do let me know if you have any queries or if there is anything I can help you with by emailing [tulip.siddiq.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tulip.siddiq.mp@parliament.uk).

Best wishes,

Tulip Siddiq MP

Member of Parliament for Hampstead and Kilburn

Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury (City Minister)

### **Raising crime in Kilburn with the Government**

There has unfortunately been a shocking rise in violence and crime in Kilburn, particularly on Kilburn High Road, where there have been some horrific stabbings and a sharp increase in shoplifting. On one occasion when I raised these incidents with the police, they said that they received 1,000 calls per day from Central North London alone, which was putting huge pressure on stretched resources.

Nobody should feel unsafe in their community, and I am worried that if this is left unchecked, more and more people will be concerned for their safety in the area. It is also frightening for the staff and customers in shops who should not be having to deal with crime, violence and abuse.

I [told the Government in parliament](#) that they need to better resource the police, and make reducing all crime, including retail crime, a priority.



### Campaigning against sewage in our waterways

We have heard too many stories over the past couple of years about sewage being released into places where people swim and where our water comes from. In 2022 alone, there were 824 sewage dumps a day across the country, yet, sadly, the Government have decided to reject the Office for Environmental Protection's findings that they may have broken the law over sewage dumping in our waterways and refused to work with them to deal with this increasingly serious issue.

It is deeply concerning that the Government are not listening to the Office for Environmental Protection on this and [I raised this point](#) directly with the Minister in Parliament.



### Attending the York Rise Street Party

I had [a fabulous afternoon](#) at the York Rise Street Party in Dartmouth Park earlier this month. The community came out in force to show what fantastic local spirit there is in the area. It was great to

be there alongside my colleagues Ed Miliband MP, Anne Clarke AM and the local Highgate councillors Anna Wright and Camron Aref-Adib. I had some great conversations with local residents at the stands for Brookfield Primary School, Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum, Friends of Highgate Library, Home Start, Streets Kitchen, and other great community organisations.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in organising the party, and to all the local residents and businesses who took part.



### **Speaking in Parliament about LGBTQ hate crime**

I am really worried about the sharp rise in LGBTQ hate crimes that we have seen in recent years, including many shocking incidents in my constituency.

This year, Rainbow Europe announced that the UK had fallen to 17th place in terms of safety for LGTBQ people. Nine years ago, it was 1st. In Hampstead and Kilburn alone over the last few years, we have seen a gay couple brutally attacked by a group on a bus after being taunted with offensive questions about their sexuality and I've heard from so many constituents who have faced appalling abuse, intimidation and harassment for being in public with their partners.

At a Westminster Hall debate this month on LGBTQ abuse in social care settings, [I raised with the Government the urgent need](#) to tackle this horrific kind of abuse and for cowardly crimes that target LGBTQ people to be given tougher sentences as a priority.





### **Stopping a constituent's extradition to Russia**

I dealt with an [extraordinary case](#) recently of a constituent with refugee status in this country, who was nearly extradited to Russia after travelling to Italy with his refugee travel papers. On trying to return to the UK via Palermo airport, he was arrested and threatened with being sent back to Russia, from where he had fled following significantly traumatic experiences at the hands of the regime.

There was great concern as the UK Government had said that it does not provide consular assistance to refugees. I wrote to the Foreign Office immediately requesting further assistance in this case, and, fortunately, my constituent was allowed to return to the UK and to his life here after much distress. I have tabled Parliamentary Questions to the Government about the issues surrounding consular protection in this case, and I will be watching this issue closely and keep pushing the Government to provide the maximum possible consular protections for those who live in this country.

#### **Refugees**

### **Refugee wins last-minute extradition reprieve after trying to return from holiday**

**Russian man, who claimed asylum in UK, was arrested at Palermo airport and told he would be sent back to country of origin**



### **Inducting the new Vicar of Emmanuel Church**

I had the pleasure of attending [the licensing and induction](#) of the new Vicar of Emmanuel Church in West Hampstead, Reverend Dr Catriona Laing. I was joined by Mayor of Camden Cllr Nazma Rahman, Cllr Anne Clarke AM and other members of the local community.

It was a fantastic event which was full of optimism and well wishes. Emmanuel Church provides so much support to the area, and I know that Catriona will be a fantastic addition to the church's brilliant team.



### **Speaking at the National Theatre**

Hampstead and Kilburn is full of creatives, and one of the great joys of representing this constituency is being able to meet so many fascinating artists and innovators who constantly amaze me with the work they are doing.

That's why it was wonderful to have the chance to attend an event that was put on by the Brunswick Group at the National Theatre this month. I had the chance to see some behind-the-scenes set design and gave a speech on the importance of the arts, Labour's commitment to the creative industries and my role as Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury working on financial services.

I love going to the theatre and the National is a particular favourite of mine – it was great to be able to contribute to this excellent event held there.



### Hosting the Changing Faces charity in Parliament

In Parliament recently, I had the pleasure of inviting a group from the Changing Faces charity for [tea on the Terrace and a tour of the Palace of Westminster](#).

Changing Faces does important work to promote respect and provide support for people who have a visible difference on their face or body. It is a network that gives so much confidence to people who too often are made to feel negatively about their body.

It was brilliant to spend some time with both people who are supported by the charity and some of the trustees. I will continue to support Changing Faces and the brilliant work they do.





## Supporting important causes in Parliament

I have been lucky enough to go to several events in Parliament since my last newsletter to show my support for various causes. They are a fantastic way for me to support charities or endeavours that mean a lot to my constituents, so please do continue to get in touch if there is an upcoming parliamentary event you think I should go to. Some examples of events I have been to recently are:

- The Building Societies Association Savings Week [reception](#), where I spoke about Labour's commitment to supporting building societies by removing barriers holding the industry back.
- The [Daily Mile reception](#), where I met representatives from Daily Mile, who do wonderful work getting kids active in school with the aim of improving their health, concentration, and happiness.
- A [drop in with Heart Valve Voice](#), who aim to raise awareness of heart valve disease, and increase the number of people who have routine stethoscope checks.
- A [reception organised](#) for the Aid Match All Party Parliamentary Group, which looks into how the government's matching of international aid funding could be improved. This session was the launch of a report about how to better tackle poverty in developing countries and was attended by the inspiring Rio Ferdinand!





## Community Bulletin

- Congratulations to Hampstead local The Holly Bush pub for being recognised by the British Institute of Innkeeping as a #BII Sustainability Champion for their work to reduce food mileage, waste, and energy consumption!
- Congratulations also to the team at the Kilburn branch of Woody Grill for being shortlisted for Best Turkish Restaurant in North and West London at the Turkish Restaurant and Takeaway awards. You can vote for the Woody Grill in Kilburn [here!](#)
- The Education and Engagement Service within the UK Parliament team are hosting a residential [UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador Programme](#) from the 29-31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. This will give teachers an experience of parliament first-hand, allowing them to return to schools and develop their understanding and engagement with Parliament. The closing date for applying is Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October so please do find out more if you are interested.
- Brent Council's new [Community Grants](#) fund is now open for applications. This is an opportunity for registered organisations to apply for their share of £1 million for projects to improve local areas and benefit communities. The fund is open to a wide range of organisations including charities, residents' groups, and schools.