



TULIP SIDDIQ MP

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



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Good afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter.

We have all been appalled by the devastating scenes we have seen unfolding in Israel and Gaza in recent weeks, and my thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by this, and particularly those who have family in the region.

The situation in Gaza is horrendous and I [raised with the Prime Minister](#) the terrible situations that pregnant women in particular are finding themselves in – including some who are facing the prospect of caesarean sections in hospitals without any electricity. We all want the bloodshed to end as soon as possible, and I have been encouraged to see the pause in the fighting and allow some hostages out of Gaza and humanitarian aid in. I voted for Labour’s amendment to the King’s Speech (on page 15 [here](#)), which set out a comprehensive, realistic plan to bring the conflict to an end.

I have dedicated a substantial amount of time this month supporting constituents who have been greatly concerned and affected by the terrible events that continue to take place in the Middle East. I have had moving conversations with those affected, including on [BBC Sunday Politics London](#) with a Palestinian man with family in region. I know that this is a desperately worrying time for the friends and family of those affected, and I can assure you that I will continue to do all I can to support my constituents and respond to those who have been in touch as quickly and personally as I can.

Please read on to hear more about my work this month, including events I have spoken at as Shadow City Minister and issues I have been taking up locally.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this newsletter and as usual, please do get in touch at tulip.siddiq.mp@parliament.uk if you have any queries or concerns that I can help with.

All the best,

Tulip Siddiq MP

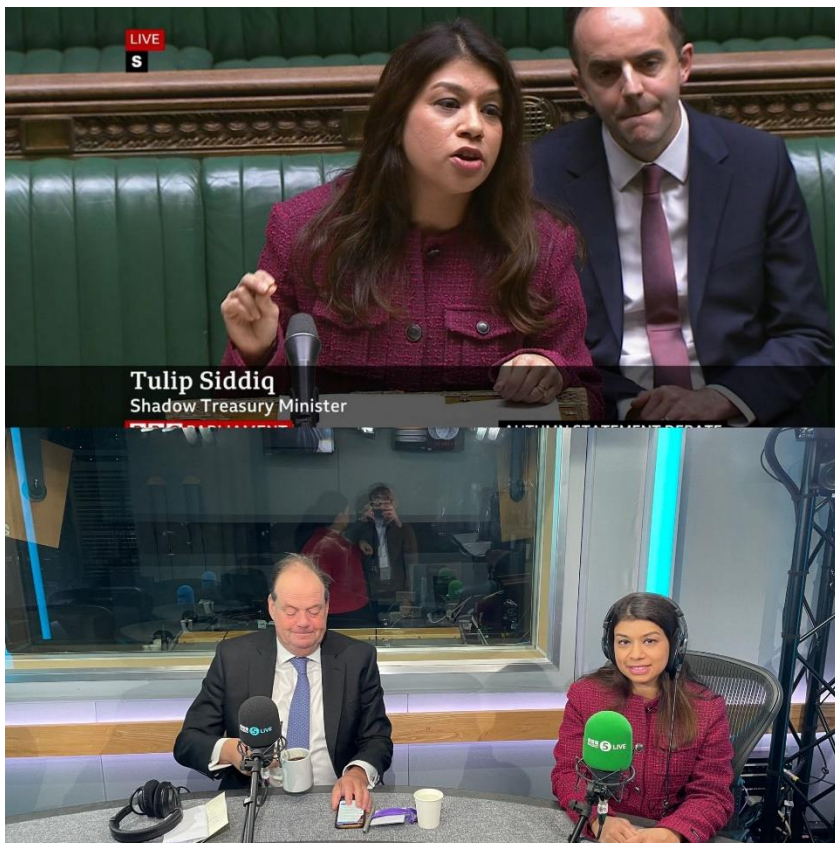
Member of Parliament for Hampstead and Kilburn

Responding to the Autumn Statement in Parliament

The Chancellor Jeremy Hunt presented this year's Autumn Statement to the House of Commons last week. With people across my constituency and the country struggling to make ends meet, we were all hoping for bold and serious measures to begin to tackle this painful cost of living crisis.

Unfortunately, however, the Autumn Statement did little to promote growth and turn the economy around, and even with its measures mortgages will still be rising, taxes are higher than ever, and inflation is expected to remain high. On [Sky News and BBC 5 Live](#), I spoke about how the economy is expected to have zero growth until 2025, and since 2010, the average household is paying £4,000 more in tax. People who have remortgaged since July have seen their monthly payments climb by an average of £220 and, in Hampstead and Kilburn, people are looking at an average annual increase of £9,100 on their mortgage. Far too many families will be forced to make incredibly difficult decisions on their personal finances, and this Statement did not do enough to address it.

As I said in [Parliament](#) when I closed the debate for Labour on the Autumn Statement, the measures announced by the Chancellor are equivalent to handing back £1 for every £8 of the Government's tax increases since 2019. This is nothing to celebrate, and I will continue to urge the Government to do more to help working people.



My plan to regulate the Buy Now Pay Later sector

This month, I was very glad to announce Labour's plans for regulating the Buy Now Pay Later sector, which I have been leading on as Shadow City Minister. I recognise that many people use BNPL products as a way to budget and pay for item, but there is a real problem with exploitative practices in the sector which has affected a great number of people and the Government has been far too

slow to act. This has left a many consumers unprotected and the Buy Now Pay Later sector in a state of uncertainty. As I said in [The Times](#), millions are at risk from bad actors, and more must be done to protect them. I [wrote](#) about this to the Government as well, pushing my opposite number in Government the Economic Secretary to the Treasury to introduce legislation urgently.

Having spoken to many of the people who both provide and utilise Buy Now Pay Later credit, including hosting the pictured [roundtable](#) with leading BNPL providers and consumer groups, it was clear that regulation would be welcome and we were able to work out a credible plan for action. I hope that the Government will finally stop delaying regulation and accept our clear, strong plans which would ensure consumers have the extensive financial protections they need.



Opening the new Mind charity shop in West Hampstead

I was delighted to cut the ribbon for the opening of the new Mind Charity shop on West End Lane. Charity shops are an asset to our high streets too and a great option for Christmas shopping!

Mind is a fantastic charity which aims to make mental health a priority and offer help to people who are struggling through providing information, advice and local services. 1 in 4 people have mental health problems and, unfortunately, the majority don't get the help they need. Between 2017 and 2022, rates of mental disorder increased from around 1 in 8 young people to a rate of 1 in 6. This is a really concerning increase and we must improve mental health services to offer young people the support that they need to prevent mental health problems becoming worse.

Charities like Mind are essential for getting mental health talked about and I will continue to support their work and push for it to be a priority for the Government.



Ensuring financial services drive growth across the UK

It was fantastic to be able to speak at Bloomberg's Sterling Money Market Forum about how we can ensure that our financial markets unlock capital across the economy and create jobs in every part of the country. The UK is the highest global net exporter of financial services and our capital markets represent more than 8% of overall GDP. The sector employs more than 2.5 million people, two thirds of whom are based outside of London. It is incredibly important that we unlock the City's full potential and use it to drive growth across the country.



Promoting green finance and sustainable growth

I gave a speech at the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association Leadership Summit where I spoke about the need for more decisive leadership on sustainable finance from the Government to ensure that the UK remains competitive in the race for green investment. Banks and insurers raise close to £200bn in bonds annually in the UK – if we could work towards just 5% of this being allocated to green infrastructure, it could provide up to an additional £10 billion a year for projects such as wind and hydrogen, and at no cost to the taxpayer. This is what I have been focussing on as Shadow City Minister and it was great to have an insightful conversation about it at this event.



Marking Remembrance Day in Parliament

It was a real honour to visit the Garden of Remembrance in Parliament to reflect upon the enormous sacrifice that Hampstead and Kilburn residents have made, both past and present. I am deeply proud of all of our Armed Forces personnel, veterans, and their families for the courageous contribution that they make to our community and country.

Armistice Day is a moment to remember the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces in all conflicts from the Second World War to Iraq and Afghanistan. It is so important that we honour all those we've lost in conflict through the years and have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of our country, its safety, and security. It was a privilege to be able to do so in Parliament.



Discussing how we can improve workplaces

I had a thought-provoking time speaking at the [Fawcett Society](#) conference. The Fawcett Society is a brilliant charity that campaigns for gender equality and women's rights at work. I spoke about the gender pay gap and flexible working, as well as how to get more women into positions of power.

It has been found that almost 1.5 million women are kept out of the labour market because of caring responsibilities, which could massively be reduced if flexible working was more widely available. Unfortunately, 3 out of 10 requests to work flexible are refused as it stands. This needs to change if we are serious about keeping more women in the workplace, and I was glad to have the opportunity to discuss this and the efforts I've made to bring in a Flexible Working Bill to address it.

I also had the opportunity to join a brilliant panel with Standard Chartered for a discussion about how important it is to maintain a good work-life balance. Research shows that 31% of people do not currently feel like they have a good work-life balance. This is something that affects so many of us and it was good to talk to fellow busy professionals about what they do to ensure that work does not take over their life – like ensuring time with family and for hobbies.



Chairing a panel to commemorate Kristallnacht

I had the opportunity to chair an incredibly moving panel to commemorate Kristallnacht at JW3 in my constituency this month. This year was the 85th anniversary of the Night of Broken Glass. On the 9th and 10th of November 1930, Nazi soldiers in Germany and Austria launched vicious attacks on Jews, destroying Synagogues and Jewish businesses and homes.

The panel, held in collaboration with Generation 2 Generation - a charity enabling descendants of Holocaust Survivors to tell their family stories - was made up of some incredible people, including Steven Frank, a Holocaust survivor and passionate educator. The discussion I chaired gave panellists the chance to explore the different ways that descendants of eyewitnesses to the Holocaust work to tell the stories of their tragic family history and ensure that this work is continued by future generations. I would like to thank everyone who was involved organising such an important and moving evening in my constituency, and I was honoured to be asked to facilitate the discussion.



Attending an event in Parliament to promote Mitzvah Day

I was delighted to visit a reception in Parliament to promote [Mitzvah Day](#), the UK's largest faith based day of social action, which was on the 19 November. The event also had contributions from Separated Child, a foundation which offers emotional, social and practical support to young refugees and asylum seekers.

Separated children and young people experience double the trauma of separation – not just from their family but also from their homeland and culture, so the work of Separated Child is incredibly important. I know that there were fantastic initiatives across the country this Mitzvah Day so thank you to everyone who got involved!



