

Introduction

Good afternoon,

Happy New Year and thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter.

It has been great to hit the ground running in 2024, both in my work in the constituency and parliament.

This month, we saw the Government's shameful Safety of Rwanda Bill pass through the House of Commons, despite the fact that I voted against it at every opportunity. At a potential cost of £400 million to the British taxpayer, this Bill is an unworkable waste of time and money. The Rwanda policy does not represent the kindness and compassion that makes my constituency so wonderful, and I completely oppose it. I will be monitoring the Bill's progress in the House of Lords carefully and will continue to do everything I can to prevent it becoming law.

Along with the whole country, I have been deeply saddened by the terrible stories caused by the Post Office Horizon scandal that have come to light recently. While it has been good to see this issue finally getting the attention it deserves, it is a matter of national shame that this scandal was allowed to happen and that affected families are still waiting for justice. These people have waited years and years for a resolution, and sadly some sub postmasters are not here to see justice served. If you are someone who was affected, please do get in touch and I will do all I can to support you.

My campaign to prevent the closure of the maternity unit at the Royal Free Hospital is ongoing – it is something that means a great deal to me as both of my children were born there, and I know that the closure of the unit would have a really significant impact on families in my constituency. This month I have written a joint letter to local health chiefs with Brent councillors, MPs, and Assembly Members explaining why the maternity unit must remain open. I would encourage any constituents who care about this issue to submit to the consultation on the proposed closure here: <https://www.royalfree.nhs.uk/news/start-well-public-consultation-open>.

Please read on to find out more about what I have been doing this month and let me know if there is anything I am able to help with.

With very best wishes,

Tulip Siddiq MP
Member of Parliament for Hampstead and Kilburn

Commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is this Saturday 27 January, and, as a former trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, I know how important this day is to so many people across the world.

This week, I attended a really moving HMD service at Belsize Square Synagogue, hosted by the Association of Jewish Refugees at Belsize Square Synagogue. It was incredibly inspiring and moving to hear Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines MBE who fled from the Nazis. I am so grateful to the organisers for including me in such an extraordinary event. I will also be joining people around the world in lighting a candle to commemorate HMD this weekend, and would encourage others to do the same.

We must never forget the horrendous atrocities that took place during the Holocaust, as well as in other instances of genocide and identity-based persecution around the world, and Holocaust Memorial Day is an incredibly important part of this. You can [register](#) to watch curated moments from the HMD 2024 UK Ceremony before taking part in the Light the Darkness national moment at 8pm on the 27 January.



Working on the Finance Bill

In my role as a Shadow Treasury Minister I have been working hard this month on the Finance Bill, both on the Committee for the Bill as well as in debates in the House of Commons. I repeatedly urged the Government to provide a serious plan to unlock the finance our high-growth firms need to drive growth and jobs across the country.

From inconsistent tax relief on green fuels, to ongoing confusion over the post-Brexit VAT regime, UK companies deserve significantly better than they are getting, and I will continue to urge the Government to address this.



Speaking to Kingsgate Primary School

It was a joy to speak at Kingsgate Primary School's assembly this month. I am always so impressed when I visit schools in the constituency, both by the children's excellent behaviour and their insightful, thoughtful, and intelligent questions.

Thank you to all those I spoke to, and please do let me know if your children's school would like me to come along and speak to the students!



Speaking in a debate on public sector pay

I spoke this month in a Westminster Hall debate on the state of public sector pay. Working people have seen 14 years of low growth, stagnant wages and high taxes. As I said in the debate, the average pay for workers is lower in value now than it was 14 years ago, when the Conservatives first came to power.

I believe that it is the Government's responsibility to ensure that quality public services are provided for the common good of the country and that those who run those services are paid fairly and treated with respect, and I was glad to be able to put this point forward.



Speaking at the Investing and Saving Alliance Annual Conference

I was delighted to speak at TISA's annual conference. TISA do fantastic work in bringing the financial services industry together to try and improve the financial wellbeing of people around the country.

As I said in the speech, the challenges and opportunities facing Britain in the 21st Century, whether in improving financial education in schools or reforming our fragmented pensions market, will require a new covenant between government and the financial services industry. I am committed to making sure that this partnership is as positive and fruitful as it can be under a Labour Government.



Visiting the Fairtrade Reception in Parliament

I had the pleasure of going along to a Fairtrade reception in Parliament, where I learned a lot about what Fairtrade does to ensure that producers and suppliers get a fair deal.

More than 1.9 million farmers and workers are in Fairtrade certified producer organisations, meaning that they are guaranteed a fair price for their work. I tasted for myself that treating your suppliers well means that the produce is often better too! These companies make sure that the people they work with get a fair deal, and I will continue to work with businesses and the Government to ensure that good practice can become the norm.



Supporting the work of Surviving Economic Abuse

I was proud to visit the Surviving Economic Abuse charity drop-in in Parliament. As Shadow City Minister, I have seen for myself the impact that economic abuse, such as coercive control over income and bank accounts, can have on people's lives. One in five women in the UK has experienced economic abuse by a current or former partner over the last 12 months, and over a third of them didn't tell anyone at the time.

[Surviving Economic Abuse](#) are a fantastic charity who fight economic abuse and work to raise awareness around the issue, as well as providing support for victim-survivors across the UK. It's incredibly important that people who have been affected by this awful crime know that support is out there. Often the hardest part is telling someone that you have been affected and I am supporting charities like Surviving Economic Abuse who are making this process easier for so many.



Supporting the Jo Cox Foundation's campaigning

I was really glad to have the opportunity to show my support for the Jo Cox's Foundation's campaign to ensure that elected representatives are protected and kept safe. There is no place for abuse and intimidation in politics, and we should be doing all we can to ensure that it is a safe environment to encourage people from all backgrounds to get involved. In 2022, it was found that MPs received more than 130,000 toxic and abusive messages in just six weeks. The Jo Cox Civility Commission, set up in the wake of the tragic death of MP Jo Cox in 2016, has some really sensible recommendations for how we can ensure that this is prioritised, and I hope the Government will look seriously at how we can tackle these issues.



Community Bulletin

- In fantastic news, the Light House in Hampstead has recently been [listed](#) as a Grade II listed historic building. The Light House was designed by architect Ivan Simovic (1932-2012) for his family. Built between 1984 and 1985, the building stands as an important, very well-preserved example of the way Post-Modern ideas could be used in a small-scale domestic project. Congratulations to all involved.
- Slots for school trips to Parliament for the Summer term (April – July 2024) open on Wednesday 31 January at 12 noon. You can create your account on the [online booking portal](#) now in preparation!
- Laurence's Larder, a wonderful charity providing a weekly food parcel service, clothes bank, and food kitchen, have organised a vintage clothes sale fundraiser hosted by Zadie Smith and Alexandra Shulman. The event is between 5 and 9pm tomorrow, Friday 26 January, at Christ Church at Brondesbury, Christchurch Avenue, London, NW6 7BJ. Entry is just £1!