

Emily Thornberry MP
Islington South and Finsbury

Islington Labour
ON YOUR SIDE

Constituency Report (May 2021)

Coronavirus Memorial Wall

On April 2, I visited the [National COVID Memorial Wall](#) across from Parliament. The memorial has been organised and led by the bereaved, who didn't want to wait for others to decide how our national trauma should be marked.

The idea behind the project is to paint a heart to represent every life lost to COVID in the UK—all 150,000 of them. The wall will stretch from Westminster Bridge to Lambeth Bridge.

I met people who had lost their parents, husbands, brothers in deeply traumatic circumstances. People spoke openly about their feelings of helplessness, of loneliness and their deep anger. They will not rest until there is a Full Public Inquiry into the causes of the pandemic, our response and lessons we must learn. Many of the bereaved do not believe their loved ones' deaths were inevitable.



At the National COVID Memorial Wall, April 2

Local and Mayoral Elections



Canvassing with Sadiq Khan, May 6

From March to May I had the pleasure of canvassing—in person—for the local and mayoral elections. I was so happy to be out on doorsteps, speaking to constituents face to face once again.

We did it all through masks, in small groups of 6, in the rain and the hail. We spoke to tens of thousands of people in Islington South and Finsbury about hope, equality and change & how Labour can make a difference to people's lives.

It was an extraordinary and challenging election, and through it Islington has gained five fantastic new councillors.

I am so grateful to all the people who gave up their time to help, and to our wonderful NHS and brilliant scientists who have made it possible for us to go door-knocking in person, and feel that sense of normality once again.

Trade Bill

On March 22, after a three year long passage, the Trade Bill returned to the House of Commons for the final time. I looked back on the first day of debate in January 2018, when the then Trade Secretary Liam Fox said "*trade is an issue that transcends party politics*", a statement which the government went on to undermine throughout the passage of the Act, resisting the efforts that I led to ensure future trade deals do not undermine our country's food and farming standards or extend the marketisation of our NHS.

However, worst of all was the government's rejection of cross-party amendments designed to ensure that the UK does not sign future trade deals with countries committing acts of genocide, prompted by our deep concern at the treatment of China's Uighur population. After one of the largest Conservative rebellions in recent history in the House of Lords to send the 'genocide amendment' back to the Commons, I led the last push

to build a cross-party consensus for that law change on March 22. Our effort did not succeed though, a day of shame for the government and for every Tory MP who voted with them.



Trade Bill, March 22

10 Minute Rule Bill on Fur Trade

On April 21 in the House of Commons, my Labour colleague Taiwo Owatemi presented a Bill to ban the trade in fur, which I proudly co-sponsored.

Britain led the world when we banned fur production over twenty years ago, and we should lead the world again by banning the import, export and sale of fur. It's what the British public want – the Fur Free Britain campaign, backed by several celebrities including Dame Twiggy Lawson, Joanna Lumley and Chris Packham, handed in a petition signed by more than a million people to Downing Street last month demanding an end to the sale of fur in Britain.

Around the world, hundreds of millions of animals are killed each year for their fur. Some are bred for this purpose, forced to spend their short lives in miserable, painful confinement. Others are trapped in the wild and left in agony for hours before they are eventually slaughtered. This kind of suffering takes place every day simply to provide the fur trim on fashion accessories. It is abhorrent and unnecessary cruelty – and that is why 72% of the British public support a ban on the sale of fur.

That is why I am urging the government to take up this Bill. Without swift action, we run the risk of a proposed fur ban being compromised by future trade negotiations with fur-producing nations, which will prolong the suffering of animals overseas farmed and trapped for their fur to serve a trade which the vast majority of people in Britain oppose.



Taiwo Speaking on the Fur Bill, April 21

Labour's Plan to Vaccinate the World

It has now been over a year since the first national lockdown was imposed in the UK. Since then, there have been over 125,000 tragic deaths in Britain alone. Globally, life as we know it has had to change and people have made immeasurable sacrifices.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the delicate ecosystem of the world and laid bare the fact that no one will be safe from this virus until everyone is safe. Now, more than ever, we require a global strategy to ensure that every single country is equipped with the tools necessary to end this pandemic, and we need the global leadership to make that happen.

With colleagues in Labour's Shadow Cabinet, I pressed the government on May 20, urging them to show that leadership and [setting out a 10-point plan](#) for them to adopt, designed to produce enough vaccines for the whole world, win the battle against COVID-19, and put in place the tools we need to fight future pandemics.

We proposed a global effort to identify and equip the dozens of

new facilities required in key countries and regions around the world to undertake vaccine production, or fill and finish operations, building on the model of Oxford's new Vaccines Manufacturing Innovation Centre.

We proposed the world's largest ever coordinated investment programme – in partnership with the pharmaceutical industry – to ensure that these new facilities have the skills, technology and supplies they need to enable the safe and efficient mass production of vaccines. And we propose the necessary institutional arrangements – from a regulatory body to oversee vaccine production standards to a formal trade and investment agreement among participating countries – to replicate at a global level the successful direction provided in Britain by the vaccine taskforce.

But in addition to these nuts-and-bolts measures, we proposed the determined global pursuit of new innovations that would transform the fight against Covid-19 and future viral diseases, including the development of orally active vaccines to be produced and distributed in capsule form .

Trade Orals

During April's International Trade Questions, I spoke about the report published by the Trade and Agricultural Commission in March 2021, which called on the government to establish a set of core standards for tariff reductions on food safety, environmental protection and animal welfare.

Two months later, the government are yet to publish a set of core standards, and have reportedly instead offered the Australian government a trade deal which will eliminate all tariffs and quotas on Australian beef exports to the UK.

Australia is already the world's second largest exporter of beef, and its industrial-style agricultural corporations operate at much lower production costs than UK farms, partly because they are not required to meet the same standards we insist on here for food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection.

A zero tariff trade deal would hand a massive competitive advantage to those Australian corporations, and many small UK beef farmers fear that

they will be put out of business as a result, with significant knock-on effects for our rural communities and the stewardship of our countryside.



Trade Orals. April 15

International Trade and Work in Parliament

8 March: Spring Business Forum; Meeting with Crisis Action

9 March: Meeting with Sedex

10 March: Meeting with Ann Boden from Starling Bank; Meeting with eBay ; [Letter to Liz Truss](#) on Economic Impact Assessment for EU Trade Deal

11 March: Virtual Roundtable Alliance for Intellectual Property; Meeting with Emily Rees; [Letter to Greg Hands](#) on operations against the Road Haulage Association

12 March: Vaccines Briefing with Nadhim Zahawi; SCG/GLA Covid-19 briefing for London MPs; Meeting with Blessed Sacrament; Enfield North CLP Quiz

15 March: Meeting with Fashion Roundtable; Meeting with RSPCA

16 March: Meeting with British Ceramics; Meeting with Reprieve; Meeting with High Commissioner of Singapore

17 March: Meeting with Sonny Leong; Virtual St Patrick's Day Celebration

18 March: Meeting with George Peretz QC and Anneli Howard; Meeting with UK Finance; CEFTUS Virtual Uighurs Event ; [Letter to Liz Truss](#) demanding action to free political prisoners of the Sisi regime in Egypt

19 March: SCG/GLA Covid-19 briefing for London MPs; Meeting with Geneva Representative of Knowledge Ecology International; Ealing Phonebank

22 March: [Trade Bill back in Parliament](#)

24 March: Meeting with Heathrow; Meeting with English UK; Shadow DIT Phonebank

25 March: Meeting with Barclays; Meeting with Nick von Westerholz NFU

26 March: Vaccines Briefing with Nadhim Zahawi; SCG/GLA Covid-19 briefing for London MPs;

30 March: Meeting with Rob Yates; Meeting with Peter Piot

31 March: Shadow DIT Phonebank

2 April: [COVID Memorial Wall](#); Glasgow Anniesland Virtual Launch

6 April: Meeting with Jonathan O'Sullivan

7 April: [Letter to Liz Truss](#) with 238 Questions on CPTPP

8 April: Speech at Hackney Campaign Launch

9 April: Vaccines Briefing with Nadhim Zahawi

14 April: Shadow DIT Phonebank

15 April: [Trade Orals Questions](#)

16 April: SCG/GLA Covid-19 briefing for London MPs

19 April: Trade and Animal Welfare Coalition Speech; Meeting with Fashion Roundtable

21 April: [10 Minute Rule Bill on Fur](#)

22 April: Meeting with TUC; Meeting with WWF

23 April: Vaccines Briefing with Nadhim Zahawi; Barclays Trade Call; Meeting with RSPCA ; [Letter to Liz Truss](#) on Cameroon

26 April: [Best for Britain Event](#); Meeting with Oritain; Meeting with FDF

27 April: Trade Integrated Review Session; Meeting with Reprieve and Lyn Brown; Meeting with CAAT; ITWG Evidence Session

28 April: Briefing from SEDEX; Shadow DIT Phonebank

29 April: Meeting with Nick Ashton-Hart; Meeting with Orla Delargy

30 April: Vaccines Briefing with Nadhim Zahawi; SCG/GLA Covid-19 briefing for London MPs; Zoom with Stroud CLP

1 May: Canvassing in Battersea

2 May: Phonebank

3 May: Canvassing in Hartlepool

4 May: Meeting with Arsenal Football Club; Meeting with British Ceramics on Carbon Border Tax

6 May: Election Day; Meeting on Trips Waivers

7 May: Meeting with High Commissioner of the Maldives

9 May: [Letter to Liz Truss](#) on Freeports

11 May: Meeting with Nathalie Bernasconi IISD

12 May: Meeting with Phil Bloomer on Supply Chains

14 May: SCG/GLA Covid-19 briefing for London MPs;

17 May: Speaking at South Ribble CLP

19 May: British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Event; Meeting with CAABU on Palestine

20 May: [Guardian Article](#) and [Letter to Liz Truss](#) on Vaccines; CBI Event

23 May: [Letter to Liz Truss](#) on Potential Trade Deal with Australia



Canvassing in Hartlepool, May 3

In the Constituency

- 15 March: Meeting with Richard Watts and Linzi Roberts-Egan
- 17 March: Meeting with constituents on Myanmar
- 19 March: Meeting with Farfetch about Brexit arrangements
- 21 March: Islington South and Finsbury Digital Quiz
- 14 April: Canvassing in Bunhill
- 15 April: Canvassing in Holloway
- 20 April: [Letter to Arsenal Football Club](#) on proposed 'Super League'
- 25 April: St Peter's New North Community School; 2 Unite Bunhill
- 5 May: Canvassing in Clerkenwell and Holloway
- 6 May: Canvassing in Islington
- 17 May: Q&A: St John Evangelist School Parliamentary Workshop
- 20 May: Council AGM

Media

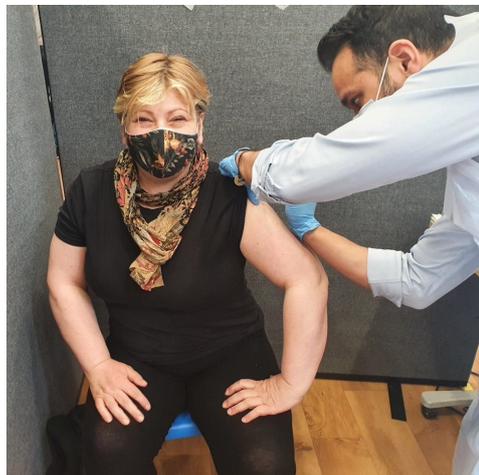
- 12 March: [BBC Newsnight](#)
- 23 March: Interview with The Stack World
- 25 March: Women's History Month Digital Rally
- 7 April: [LBC](#)
- 13 April: IP Interview
- 15 April: Interview with Thomas Andrei
- 21 April: [LBC](#)
- 30 April: Call with The Australian on UK-AUS Trade Deal
- 11 May: BBC Radio Essex
- 12 May: Coventry NE CLP Speech
- 20 May: Sky; [Good Morning Britain](#); Times Radio; [LBC](#); Bauer Media; ITV



Speaking about a potential trade deal with Australia on LBC, May 20



Discussing vaccines on Good Morning Britain, May 20



Getting my second vaccine, May 21



Canvassing in Bunhill, April 25



Canvassing in Holloway, April 15



Islington's New Councillors



Canvassing in Battersea, May 1