



Constituency Report (March 2022)

Crisis in Ukraine



St Volodymyr, the King of Ukraine's statue in Holland Park. Via [Instagram](#)

We stand with Ukraine. At the time of writing, Kyiv and other cities throughout Ukraine are under deadly bombardment. Thousands of civilians are already feared to have died, and more than a million others have been forced to flee from their homes into neighbouring countries.

The Labour Party utterly condemns this unprovoked, immoral and barbaric assault by Putin's forces, we stand united with countries across the globe in opposing this heinous violation of international law, and we remain steadfast in solidarity with the Ukrainian people as they strive heroically to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their lives.

While we must not allow the war to escalate into a wider conflict between Russia and NATO countries, it is absolutely right that we continue working with our NATO allies to provide Ukraine with all the support it needs to defend itself.

We must also continue to impose the strongest possible financial and economic sanctions on Putin, on all those linked to him, and on the business arms of the Russian state. Labour has been calling for action in this area for years.

I am sure you share my feelings of concern and sympathy for all those Ukrainians – most of them older people, younger women and children – who have been forced to flee to neighbouring countries. The UK must do everything possible alongside our European partners to help countries like Poland, Moldova and Slovakia provide those Ukrainians with shelter, protection and care. But we must also do our bit to give sanctuary here in Britain to those who need it.

On 15 March, the government finally launched the website for its Homes for Ukraine scheme, which will allow people in the UK to open up their homes to Ukrainians fleeing the war, including those with no family ties to the UK. As I said that evening during a [Channel 4](#) News special on Ukraine: *"The British public have reacted in the way that we would all expect the British public to – with huge generosity. [...] But how is it [the scheme] organised? [...] First of all, it's a shame that we've been dragging our feet until now. And now we have an eye-catching scheme, but we haven't really got the details to show it makes sense."* The government have yet to explain how anyone can offer a home to a Ukrainian if they don't know them.

Elizabeth Line

As the central section of the Elizabeth line nears completion, I was invited to travel along it on 7 March, and passed through Farringdon! I first visited Farringdon when the site was not much more than a hole in the ground. It feels like the work on this project has been ongoing since I was first elected as an MP, so I am very much looking forward to the line finally coming into service.



Visiting the Elizabeth line with MPs Abena Oppong-Asare and James Murray, 7 March

Preparing for the Local Elections

On the evening of 24 February, a fundraising dinner was held at Frederick's to help us raise money for the local elections in Islington South and Finsbury.

Thank you to everyone who came along, and a big thanks in particular to my old friend Sadiq who took some time away from his busy mayoral duties to say 'hello' to everybody and deliver a great speech.

Ahead of the May elections, I've been meeting with residents in St Mary's, St James', Caledonian and Holloway wards this month, talking COVID, mental health, carers and removing the Tories.



Out and about with local activists on Priory Green and Hornsey Road, 26 February



Sadiq and I at Fredrick's, 24 February

Out on the Labour Doorstep in London (and Beyond!)



Twickenham: On 20 February, I was out with this enthusiastic team in Heathfield, helping to get elected Labour's first representatives in this area for far too long.



Birmingham: Pictured here with our newest Labour MP, Paulette Hamilton, who I was out campaigning for in Birmingham Erdington on 25 February.

Wakefield: On 5 March, I spent the morning on the doorstep with Wakefield

CLP, who are ready and determined for this seat's by-election, whenever it may come.

On 6 March, I was on the edge of Tower Hamlets in Popsoken ward, canvassing for **City of London** Labour. Ahead of May's crucial local elections, I also spent some time in **Harrow** and **Colchester** this month, on 7 March and 13 March, speaking to residents about the fantastic Labour candidates in their areas.



International Women's Day



Speaking at St Dominic's Sixth Form, 7 March

The theme of this year's International Women's Day was Break the Bias. I spoke to students at St Dominic's Sixth Form in Harrow about the lack of women's representation in sport, the arts, politics, mountaineering — and even space!

On 10 March, I travelled up to Oxford for a debate at the Oxford Union, speaking for the proposition and defending the claim that women can, in fact, have it all. I concluded: *"'Having it all' as The Daily Mail define it is a game none of us can win played according to their rigged rules. Whereas if we reclaim that concept for ourselves, if we live life on our own terms, 'having it all' is an aspiration we can all share."*



With the Labour Society at the University of Leeds, 3 March

Shadow Attorney General and Work in Parliament

20 February: Canvassed in Heathfield, Twickenham

23 February: Meeting with the Helsinki Policy Forum Women Parliamentary Network

25 February: Canvassed in Birmingham Erdington

25 February: [Letter to Suella Braverman on the CJI's report into the police and CPS' post-charge response to rape cases](#)

28 February: Q&A with Labour in Communications

3 March: Spoke at an event with the Labour Society at the University of Leeds

4 March: Wakefield CLP Fundraising Dinner

5 March: Attended Women's Forum Meeting for Wakefield CLP

5 March: Canvassed in Horbury and Ossett, Wakefield

6 March: Canvassed in Portsoken, City of London

7 March: Spoke at an International Women's Day event at St Dominic's Sixth Form College, Harrow

7 March: Canvassed in Harrow West

8 March: [Twitter thread on Russian bank loans](#)

10 March: Spoke in an International Women's Day debate at the Oxford Union

13 March: Canvassed in New Town and Christchurch, Colchester

In the constituency



Discussing the plans for Holloway Prison, 26 February

17 February: Canvassed in St Mary's and St James' wards

24 February: Islington South and Finsbury CLP Fundraising Dinner with the Mayor of London

26 February: Meeting with the North American Tradeswomen Building Bridges Network on Holloway Prison

26 February: Canvassed in Caledonian and Holloway wards

27 February: Attended the Licensing Service of Reverend Caroline Titley at St Andrew's Church, Barnsbury

7 March: Visited the Elizabeth line and drove through Farringdon!

7 March: Attended an International Women's Day event in Keir Starmer's office with two local businesswomen

10 March: Lunch for charity beneficiaries with the Brewers' Company

12 March: Surgery at Islington Town Hall; Watched The Keyworkers Cycle: Part One at the Almeida Theatre; Afternoon tea with the All Change older people



Participating in a [Channel 4](#) panel on Ukraine, 15 March

Media

16 February: [Peston](#) — "We are a financial superpower... yet dirty money just washes into London"

22 February: Media Round - 5 Live; LBC; [BBC News Channel](#); [Times Radio](#); talkRADIO

24 February: [Channel 4](#) Ukraine special

25 February: [Islington Tribune](#) article

27 February: [Westminster Hour](#)

1 March: Media Round — Jeremy Vine; Times Radio; Bauer Media

8 March: [Financial Times](#) article

10 March: GB News with Gloria de Piero

14 March: [Politics Live](#) — "We knew this [the Ukrainian refugee crisis] was coming"

15 March: [POLITICO](#) article; Media Round — BBC News Channel and talkRADIO; [Channel 4](#) Ukraine special