

Emily Thornberry MP

ISLINGTON SOUTH AND FINSBURY

July Report



Tory Failure Carousel

We're finally down to the final two of what has been a bleak selection of Tory MPs jostling for the leadership with no idea, no plan to get us out of the difficulties of our economy.

The Tory candidates who have put themselves forward have been no strangers to me as I have shadowed both Liz Truss, and Suella Braverman. Frankly, the experiences were eye-openers to the new depths that Tory incompetence and deceit could plumb.

In my previous role as Shadow International Trade Secretary, I have requested the most basic details of Truss's meetings in the public interest to only receive evasive and opaque replies from her department. A Liz Truss leadership would be no different to Johnson's degradation of public trust.

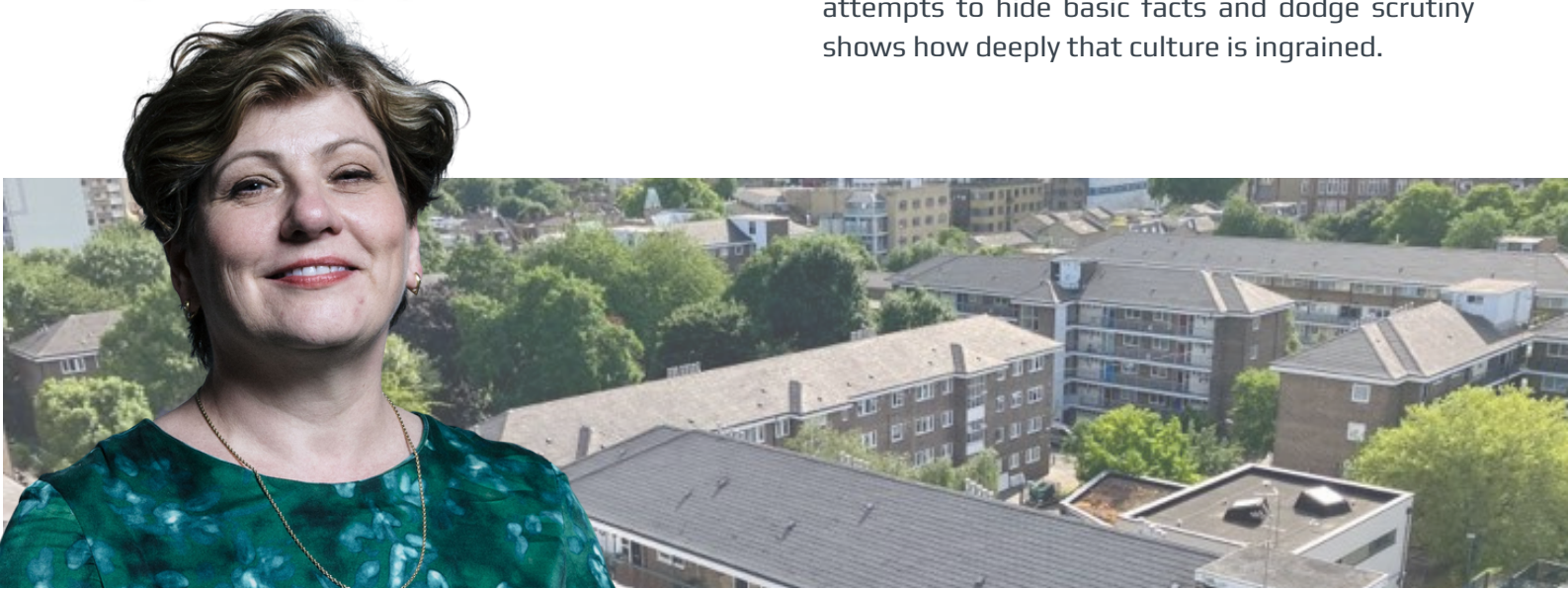
Liz Truss asked for public money to cover £3,000 lunch

Reports say Truss demanded booking at 'obviously incredibly expensive' club owned by Tory donor



As Shadow Attorney General, I see firsthand the incompetence of Suella Braverman as rape prosecution delays grow and the national increase in fraud goes untackled. During Attorney General Orals, Braverman does not even have the pretense of accountability and would much rather rant about political theory like a panicked sixth-form debater.

There is a culture of cover-up and deceit across the whole of this government that will not be ended simply by replacing Boris Johnson, and the attempts to hide basic facts and dodge scrutiny shows how deeply that culture is ingrained.



Violence Against Women & Girls

In June, I led more than 100 female Labour MPs in signing a letter to the Prime Minister calling for him to scrap the new guidance on pre-trial therapy for rape victims. The proposed changes will make it far too easy for defence teams to access and use therapy notes in rape trials.

It will cause many survivors to avoid seeking therapy, and make it more likely that cases will collapse when the prolonged stress of waiting for trials becomes too much.

Boris Johnson wasn't aware of the proposed changes. This government pays so little attention to violence against women and girls with the huge court backlogs that see victims wait over 1,000 days for trial.

In Islington, I have been meeting local stakeholders like Abianda to discuss the changes in guidance and the difficulties of abysmal prosecution rates, and trial delays.

While the Tories are discussing 20% cuts to the civil service, victims are caught up in a broken, backlogged system. We drastically need a government that will act on this.



With Abianda

Emergency Services Waiting Times

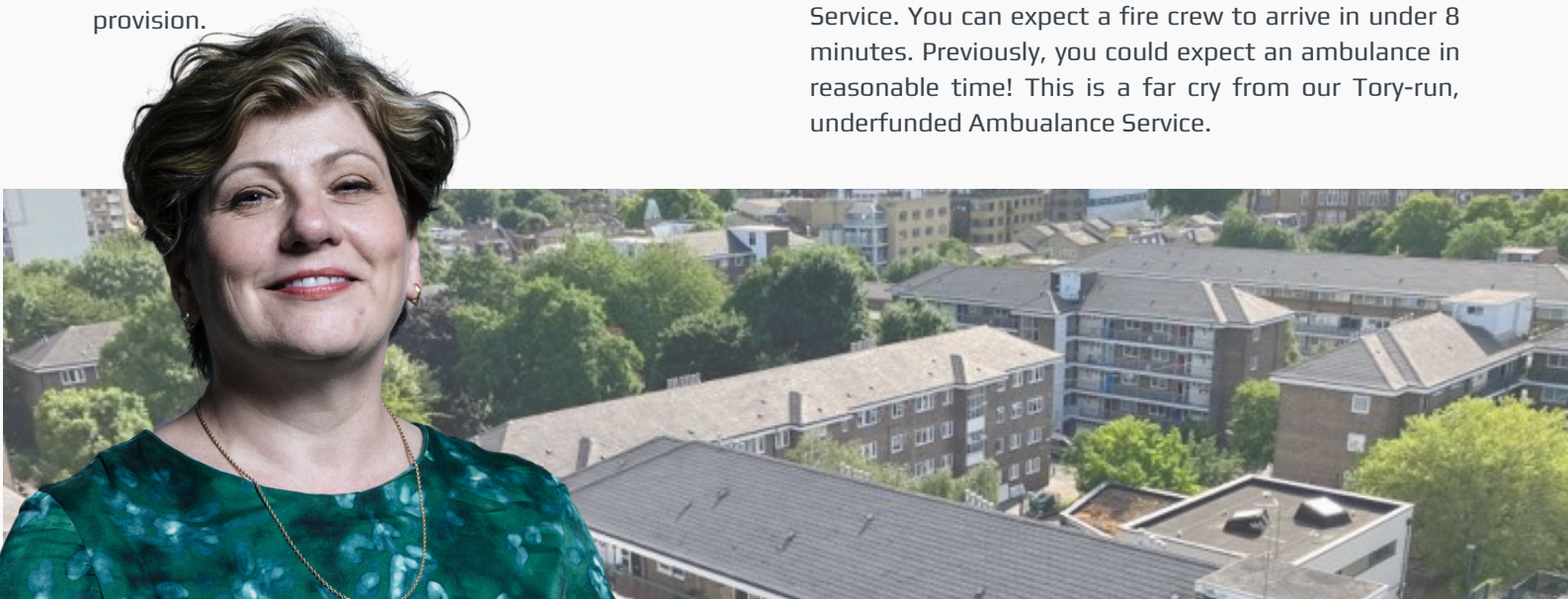
Accident & Emergency is the canary in the coalmine for the NHS, and indeed the rest of our public services. People are struggling to see their GP and current patients in hospitals struggle to return home without a functioning social care system. As a result, A&E carries the burden and ambulance waits have climbed to an appalling 40 minute wait, and trusts are regularly warning patients that there may be no help at peak times.

The Tories have mismanaged our National Health Service and now, the entire weight of a failing system is resting on the Ambulance Service as it picks up many issues that ought to have been resolved through general practice, social care, or mental health provision.



At Islington Fire Station

Last week I visited the London Fire Brigade and saw first hand the efficiency and effectiveness of our Fire Service. You can expect a fire crew to arrive in under 8 minutes. Previously, you could expect an ambulance in reasonable time! This is a far cry from our Tory-run, underfunded Ambulance Service.



On Your Side

I am proud of my team's actions in helping save a long-planned performance by world-class Ukrainian violinist Valeriy Sokolov with Islington-based orchestra Aurora Orchestra from cancellation. We stepped in to resolve a long-running visa issue for soloist Valeriy Sokolov so he could perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with Aurora Orchestra in the Royal Festival Hall on Friday 24th June.

Valeriy has had a tumultuous few months as he was forced to flee his hometown of Kharkiv as it suffered heavy bombing during the Russian invasion.

It was such a joy to see Valeriy share his wonderful talent with a live audience here in London, and such a pleasure to support the fantastic Aurora Orchestra, who add so much to the cultural life of our borough and our city.

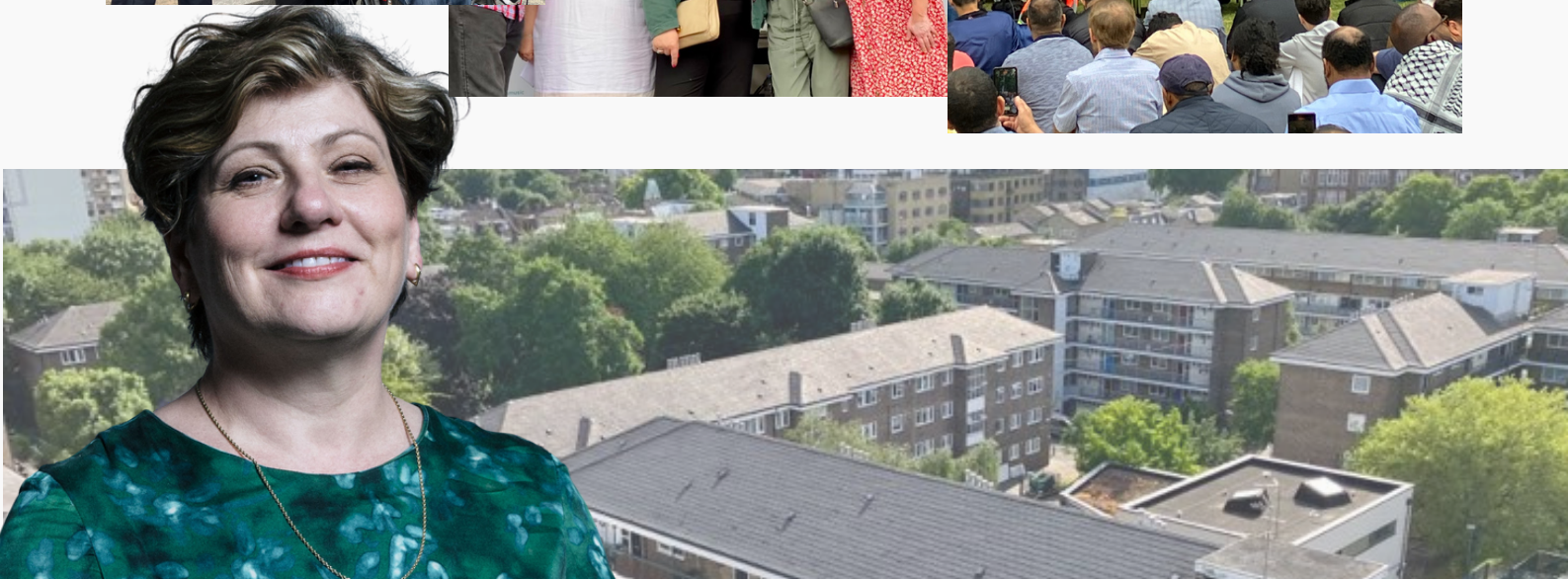
Every day in my constituency office, we deal with dozens of pleas for help from people tangled up in Home Office bureaucracy and delays, and we do whatever we can to help. It is a constant struggle, but it is always worth it when we can get results like the one with Valeriy's visa.



With Valeriy and caseworker Kat at the wonderful Aurora Orchestra

Community Festivals

Islington began summer with aplomb with a wide variety of events ranging from small street picnics to huge gatherings for Eid in the Park.



Windrush Commemorations

I was moved to receive dozens of letters from school children in Thornhill Primary School about the importance of celebrating and remembering the Windrush community in Islington, and across the country. The school children got in touch after reading "Windrush Child" by Benjamin Zephaniah and asked what was being done to remember the generation.

I spent Windrush day with members of the community in a sharing circle to share experiences. One of the first reported cases of the injustice that the Windrush generation received was a constituent who had lost their job because of their Home Office's awfulness.

Community Events



Delicious SunFlower Bread at Cally Fest



At London LGBT+ Pride



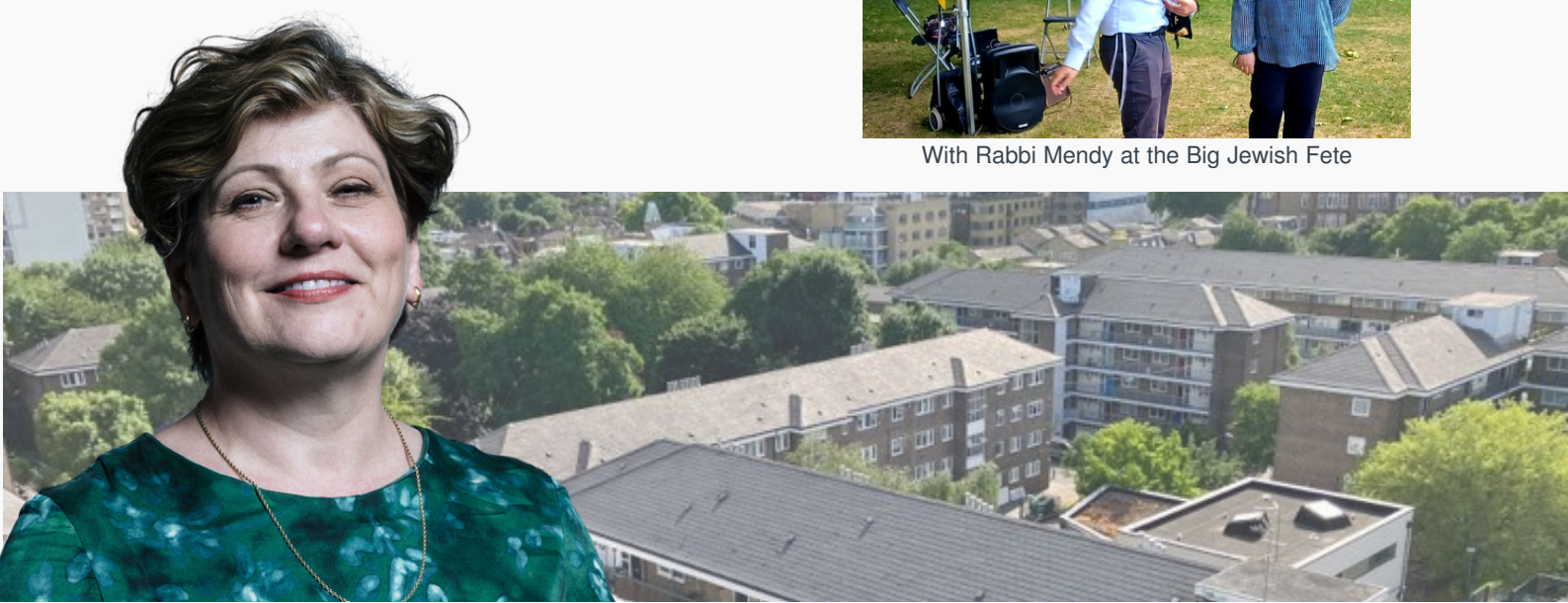
Touring the Honourable Artillery Company



At Refugee Awareness Week Event



With Rabbi Mendy at the Big Jewish Fete



Diary

Constituency

June

- 16 – Refugee Week Celebration
- 16 – Women in Construction
- 17 – St Luke’s Constituency Surgery
- 17 – Amwell Society 50th Anniversary Party
- 20 – Visit to 64 Million Artists
- 22 – Community Sharing Circle on experiences of the Windrush generation
- 23 – Visit to the Honourable Artillery Company
- 23 – Attended Aurora Orchestra Concert
- 26 – The Big Jewish Summer Fete
- 26 – Attended Concert to mark end of Refugee Awareness Week “Under the Same Sun”

July

- 3 – Cally Street Party
- 8 – St Luke’s Constituency Surgery
- 9 – Eid in the Park
- 9 – Town Hall Constituency Surgery
- 9 – Whitecross Street Party
- 11 – Hargrave Park Primary School visit for “Wonder Women” speaker series
- 14 – Visit Islington Fire Station
- 15 – Visit Abianda
- 18 – St Andrew’s (Barnsbury) Primary School visit for the Reading Challenge

Parliament and Shadow Attorney General

June

- 15 – Rose Network Reception
- 18 – Canvassing in Wakefield By-election
- 28 – New Statesman roundtable on 'Law & Order: Creating A Safer Country Post-Pandemic'
- 28 – London Legal Walk
- 29 – Meeting with Human Rights Act stakeholders with Shadow Solicitor General
- 29 – Society of Labour Lawyers

July

- 2 – Carry Labour Banner at Pride
- 7 – Attorney General Oral Questions
- 10 – Afternoon Tea Fundraiser with Hornsey and Wood Green Labour
- 20 – Meeting with the FDA trade union

Media

June

- 16 – GB News
- 17 – LBC – For the Many Podcast with Iain Dale
- 17 – Bauer
- 17 – GMB
- 17 – Sky News
- 17 – Times Radio
- 17 – ITV
- 17 – For The Many Podcast with Iain Dale
- 21 – Channel 4 News
- 21 – Sky News
- 21 – BBC Newsnight
- 22 – BBC News
- 22 – Peston
- 24 – Sky News By-election Special

July

- 1 - "I Hope LGBTQ+ Communities In Repressive Countries See Our Pride Parade", Huffington Post
- 5 – Good Morning Britain
- 5 – BBC Breakfast
- 5 – GB News
- 5 – Sky News
- 5 – Times Radio
- 5 – LBC
- 5 – ITV
- 8 – Politics Live
- 10 – The Sunday Times “Relative Values”
- 10 – Westminster Hour on BBC R4
- 18 – LBC with Iain Dale
- 18 – Sky News

