

Emily Thornberry MP

ISLINGTON SOUTH AND FINSBURY

October 2023 Report



Terrible events in Israel

This month I write to you amid an unfolding tragedy in the Middle East. Hamas's appalling attacks on Israel have horrified me, and I am deeply concerned by reports of the emerging humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

It is heart-breaking to see so many civilians affected by the conflict. It is vitally important that we work to secure the release of Israeli hostages and humanitarian access to Gaza. We must remember that responsibility for the attacks of October 7th-8th lies with Hamas, and not with the Palestinian people, who are suffering terribly as a result.

I have been shocked, too, to hear of rising incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia in London in the last week. Geopolitical events are never an excuse for hatred, and I condemn in the strongest terms any attempt to divide our community.

But I am always heartened by how the Islington South and Finsbury community comes together in times of crisis. I know that you will support each other amid this conflict as you always do. Thank you also to those of you who have written to me to share your concerns.

If you are concerned about loved ones trapped in Israel or Gaza, please contact my office so that we can direct you to the consular support available from the Foreign Office.



Labour Party Conference 2023

It was wonderful to see so many of you at Labour Party Conference in Liverpool last week, and in particular to catch up with you at Islington South and Finsbury CLP drinks.

It was also great to meet so many members from across the Islington and Labour families at the welcome receptions and, of course, at my DJ set at the Labour students disco - a personal highlight of every conference season!

As well as giving my main speech on the conference floor, I spoke on several panels relating to my work as Shadow Attorney General. These included discussing how to tackle fraud with the Social Market Foundation and members of the banking and social media sectors; and speaking to the Society of Labour Lawyers, the Law Society and the Bar Council about Labour's plans for the justice system.

While the Tories look more disunited than ever, Labour conference was assured and confident, and proved how seriously we take the task of winning the next general election - and how hard we will work, together, to meet it.



My Speech: Making the Law Work for Women

This year in my speech to Conference, I announced my plans to strengthen legal protection for women at home, online, at work, and in the streets by reviewing three areas of the law: on cohabitation, on whistleblowing, and on stalking.

I want to strengthen legal support for the many women in cohabiting couples who rely on the myth of 'common law marriage', only to be left with nothing after the breakdown of their relationship.

Likewise, we must better support women who are sexually harassed in the workplace to report their attacker without fear of losing their job. And building on Labour's crime mission, I believe we must better protect victims of stalking, so that no woman lives her life in the shadow of a stalker.

I am looking forward to working alongside experts including Marina Wheeler KC - a leading lawyer in whistleblowing and employment law - and Nicola Thorp - an actress who was herself a victim of stalking - to develop a package of reforms that will strengthen protections not only for women, but for all those who have been victims in these areas.

You can read my full speech [on my website](#) or watch it [on my Facebook](#).



Scotland by-election win & Mid Beds visit

Following my trip to Scotland last month, I was thrilled to see Michael Shanks win the Rutherglen and Hamilton West by-election for Labour with 59% of the vote. He and the hard-working Scottish Labour activists have proven that people are coming back to Labour and that we are an enormous threat to SNP dominance in Scotland at the next general election.



On Any Questions after the by-election, I talked about Michael's fantastic win and Labour's message of change at Westminster and in Scotland.

Two more by-elections are coming up this week, in Mid Bedfordshire and in Tamworth. Thank you to those of you who visited Mid Bedfordshire with me at the weekend; it always makes me feel so proud to see such strong Islington support for Labour candidates around the country.

Islington Citizens' Advice Bureau

This month I visited the offices of Islington's Citizens' Advice Bureau, to meet with the local team working to support the most vulnerable in our community. I discussed with them and the national leadership the importance of ensuring better access to justice.

Citizens' Advice operates across the country, plugging the gaps in place of decimated legal aid provision under Conservative government. They ensure that people struggling with housing, debt or other legal issues have access to sound advice and legal support. It was fantastic to hear about some of the innovative ways the CAB are expanding their service to help even more people in Islington and nationwide, and what more could be done.



What else I've been up to this month



Lincoln



Visiting the TFL emergency response centre on Penton Street



Visiting the Highbury & Islington station defibrillator



Mid Beds

Campaigning visits



I've travelled 1041 miles for Labour since last GC



Thanet



Reading



Diary

Constituency

21 Sept - Islington Citizens' Advice Bureau visit
21 Sept - Reading Labour fundraiser
22-23 Sept - Campaigning trip to Lincoln
28 - Vittoria Primary School visit
29 Sept - Q&A with Kent Labour Students
30 Sept - East Thanet campaign launch
3 Oct - TfL Emergency Response Unit visit
5 Oct - Spoke at the Cambridge Union
14 Oct - Town Hall Surgery
15 Oct - Campaigning in Mid Bedfordshire

Parliament and Shadow Attorney General

20 Sept - Met with incoming and outgoing Lord Chief Justices
1 Oct - Attended the Law Society opening of the legal year dinner
4 Oct - Met with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust
6 Oct - Visited Islington Law Centre

Media

6 Oct - Any Questions
8 Oct - PoliticsHome podcast and evening media round including Sky News, BBC News and 5Live
11 Oct - Evening media round including Sky, Times Radio and Newsnight

Labour Party Conference

7 Oct - Spoke at regional welcome receptions
8 Oct - PoliticsHome podcast; Spoke on ociety of Labour Lawyers panel; evening media round
9 Oct - Spoke on SMF fraud panel; Islington CLP drinks
10 Oct - Main conference speech; leader's speech; Spoke at Amnesty UK reception; in conversation with the Labour Women's Network; DJed Labour Students Disco



Speaking at the Cambridge Union



Speaking to Kent Labour Students

