

Emily Thornberry MP

ISLINGTON SOUTH AND FINSBURY

March 2024 Report



Celebrating International Women's Day

The first two weeks of March were busy with International Women's Day celebrations in Islington and in parliament.

One of my highlights, as always, was celebrating IWD at St Luke's Community Centre with women from across our borough. And I had a fantastic time at St Peter's Church De Beauvoir with Hackney MP Meg Hillier, new Mayor of Hackney Caroline Woodley, and Bishop of London Sarah Mullally.

Working with such inspiring women has only strengthened my resolve to keep striving for equal rights for women everywhere, including through the work I'm doing to tackle stalking, increase cohabitation rights, and strengthen whistleblower protections for women reporting sexual harassment at work.



Celebrating IWD at St Luke's Community Centre



At the IWD celebration at St Peter's Church in De Beauvoir



Speaking at Fleur Anderson's IWD celebration in parliament



Speaking to women lawyers with Legal Women magazine



Campaigning in Islington and beyond



↪ Canvassing in De Beauvoir



↪ Canvassing in Bunhill



↪ Canvassing in Dover & Deal



↪ With Grissella, who first moved into Banner House in Bunhill 63 years ago!

The first month in a long time without any by-elections has given me the opportunity to spend more time knocking on doors in Islington and visiting key seats around the country.

I've spent my weekends on the doors in Bunhill, in Dover & Deal (with plenty of Islington South support!) and in our new ward of De Beauvoir.

I also travelled up to Derby North, where I joined local candidate Catherine Atkinson for a tour of the Hindu Temple and did a Q&A with local law students, before journeying on to run a fundraising pub quiz for Olivia Blake MP in Sheffield Hallam.

I particularly enjoyed my visit to the Temple, where we discussed their fantastic community work and how important interfaith dialogue is to harmony in the local community.



↪ Visiting Derby Hindu Temple



Mayor of London and London Assembly elections

This week kicks off the campaign for the London Mayoral and Assembly elections, with our fantastic Mayor Sadiq Khan seeking an unprecedented third term as Mayor. Sadiq has been a brilliant Mayor, who's building more council homes than at any time since the 1970s, has kept public transport prices low with his Hopper Fare and five-year fare freeze, taken strong action to clean up London's toxic air, and planted more than a million trees across the capital. And he's also followed Islington Labour's lead by funding universal free school meals across the capital.

Meanwhile, the Tories have fielded a candidate who has liked racist tweets and praised Donald Trump, but they have also changed the voting rules to try and give their candidate an unfair advantage. That's why it's essential that everyone turns up to vote Labour on 2 May, so we can re-elect our fantastic London Assembly Member, Sem Moema, and ensure Sadiq can continue his record of standing up for all Londoners, instead of handing the Mayoralty to a Tory candidate who is determined to divide us.



↶ With Labour Mayor of London Sadiq Khan at the launch of the new Overground line names last month

Campaigning for Sadiq and promoting his TFL fare freeze with local Labour members ↷



We need a general election

This month the Tories sunk to new depths, when Rishi Sunak was twice unable to stand up to racism within his own party.

First, when he repeatedly refused to say whether Lee Anderson's appalling comments about Sadiq Khan were Islamophobic, and again when millionaire Tory donor Frank Hester made disgraceful racist comments about Diane Abbott. It's appalling that Rishi Sunak is refusing to hand back his £10m donation, and even worse that he's apparently willing to accept more money.

Meanwhile, NHS waiting lists continue to grow, the economy is in recession, and this month's budget offered nothing to the public beyond fictional tax cuts - when taxes are actually rising to record levels! And now we find out the Prime Minister has chickened out of holding a May general election because he's too afraid to go to the country.

But whether it's an election in May or an election in the Autumn, what Britain needs is a fresh start with Labour, instead of a Prime Minister too scared to give voters the choice and too scared to stand up to racists in his own party. That's why I will continue to do everything in my power to urge Rishi Sunak to end this chaos and call the general election we all want to see.



Rishi Sunak is too chicken to call an election, and too chicken to stand up to racists in his own party.



Standing up for the victims of rape

For years I have been sounding the alarm about the dismal treatment of rape victims in our criminal justice system, but the government doesn't seem interested in listening.

At this month's Attorney General Oral Questions, I asked about a shocking report about the handling of rape cases by the Crown Prosecution Service.

The picture it paints is unacceptable: poor communication, poor decision-making, outdated attitudes, stereotypes and victim blaming, added to the constant problem of staff being overworked and under-resourced. The government must start treating this issue with the seriousness it deserves.



Speaking in Parliament at Attorney General Oral Questions

Roving surgery in Bunhill



On the Pleydell Estate in Bunhill with members of my casework team



My roving surgeries continued in March, this time visiting the Pleydell Estate in Bunhill. Many of the tower blocks on the Pleydell Estate were built in the 1960s with unrivalled views of North London, and on a clear day you can even see Alexandra Palace and the Wembley Arch.

It was fantastic to speak to residents about a whole host of important issues, with many wanting to speak to me about housing and the cost-of-living. And lots of people were also keen to know when Rishi Sunak will finally call a general election!



What else I've been up to this month



Discussing Prime Minister's Questions on BBC Politics Live

Delivering a speech on Freedom of Information law at the openDemocracy FOI conference



Speaking to the Women's Press Lobby for IWD



Hosting a party for all our new CLP ward officers



Running a fundraiser pub quiz for Olivia Blake in Sheffield



At Frederick's with Dawn Butler for the annual CLP fundraising dinner



Running the auction at London Labour Conference with Dawn Butler



Diary

Constituency and campaigning

25 Feb - Campaigning with Islington South CLP members in Dover and Deal

26 Feb - CLP fundraising dinner at Frederick's

28 Feb - Celebration for new CLP and ward officers in parliament

1 Mar - St Luke's constituent surgery

1 Mar - Roving surgery on the Pleydell Estate, Bunhill

2 Mar - Canvassing in Bunhill

2 Mar - Hosting London Labour Regional Conference with Sadiq Khan and Dawn Butler

4 Mar - Leafletting about Sadiq Khan's TFL Fare Freeze with local members

8 Mar - Attended St Luke's Community Centre International Women's Day event

8 Mar - Attended De Beauvoir Church International Women's Day event

9 Mar - Town Hall constituent surgery

9 Mar - Campaigning in De Beauvoir

14 Mar - Visit to Derby Hindu Temple

14 Mar - Law student event in Derby

14 Mar - Ran Olivia Blake MP's fundraiser pub quiz in Sheffield

15 Mar - Constituent coffee morning at Weston Rise Community Centre

19 Mar - Spoke and DJ'd at a fundraiser for Liam Conlon and Danny Beales with the Labour Irish Society

Parliament and Shadow Attorney General

26 Feb - Meeting AgeUK about fraud

28 Feb - Post-PMQs BBC Politics Live and Radio 4 World at One

29 Feb - Violence Against Women and Girls roundtable with Yvette Cooper

4 Mar - Meeting with Which? about fraud

4 Mar - Speaking at the women's political journalists reception

5 Mar - Meeting with the Lady Chief Justice

5 Mar - Spoke at Fleur Anderson MP's International Women's Day event

6 Mar - Budget

6 Mar - Meeting with Lloyd's about fraud

7 Mar - Brewers Company Court Luncheon

8 Mar - Spoke at openDemocracy conference about Freedom of Information laws

13 Mar - Spoke at a Legal Women magazine International Women's Day event

13 Mar - Labour Unions whistleblowing roundtable

14 Mar - Attorney General Oral Questions

19 Mar - Speaking on Institute for Government panel about fraud

19 Mar - Meeting with Meta about fraud

19 Mar - Financial Conduct Authority Open Banking roundtable

20 Mar - Meeting with Stop Scams UK

