

Emily Thornberry MP

ISLINGTON SOUTH AND FINSBURY

April 2024 Report



Campaigning to re-elect Sadiq Khan

This month I have been campaigning hard in Islington and across London to get our fantastic Labour Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, re-elected on 2 May.

Thanks to Sadiq, we now have more council houses being built across London than at any time since the 1970s, public transport prices have been kept low, and there's been strong action to clean up London's toxic air and tackle climate change. Sadiq has also followed Islington Labour's lead and rolled out universal free school meals across London - ensuring every primary school child can get a nutritious meal and saving parents up to £500 per year, per child.

But all that progress is under threat, because the Tories have chosen a hard-right candidate with a history of liking racist tweets and praising Donald Trump. And the government have also changed the voting rules in an effort to help their candidate win.

After eight years of success under Sadiq, we can't hand the mayoralty to a Tory candidate who doesn't share our values. That's why I'll be fighting for every vote Sadiq needs to be re-elected as Mayor of London, and to re-elect our fantastic London Assembly Member, Sem Moema, on 2 May. So if you want to join in with campaigning, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Campaigning for Sadiq with local members in Clerkenwell



With Sadiq Khan this month at a Labour Party fundraiser



Getting justice for the victims of crime

This month I was pleased to help launch the recommendations from Labour's Charging Commission, which found a 'chasm' in joint working between police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

I jointly established the Commission with Shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, last year in response to alarming statistics showing that under the Tories the proportion of reported crimes that result in someone being charged had plummeted by almost two-thirds since 2015, and the number of days taken to make a charging decision had trebled. That means more criminals walking free and victims being let down.

These new policies are intended to foster closer collaboration, better communication, and stronger supervision between the police and the CPS. Along with Yvette, I'm determined to ensure that under a Labour Government we once again have a justice system that is fit for purpose, where victims get the justice they deserve.

You can read the Committee's recommendations and find out more [by clicking here.](#)



Visiting the Hammersmith Advance Women's Centre with Yvette Cooper to meet survivors of domestic abuse. Labour would pilot allowing the best performing police forces to charge domestic abusers, without having to wait for the CPS.



Council by-election in De Beauvoir

It isn't only the mayoral election taking place on May 2nd: Islington South and Finsbury's new ward, De Beauvoir, will also hold a council by-election. As you can see below, we had an amazing turnout for the launch of the campaign, and I've been out and about this month with our brilliant local candidate Jasmine Martins, making the case for Labour in power in City Hall, in the London Assembly, and in all our local councils.

Thank you to the many of you who have already joined me on the doorstep in De Beauvoir. The by-election is expected to be very close, so I look forward to seeing lots of Islington South support there over the next three weeks.



Labour Students and youth members quiz

Last week I ran a pub quiz for Islington South & Finsbury youth members and City University students, following a successful canvassing session in windy Clerkenwell.

Thanks to all those who came along, and especially to City Labour Club for all their hard work on the doorstep.



Visiting Switchboard

This month I was honoured to visit Switchboard, who are based in the constituency, to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Switchboard is a lifeline for many in the LGBTQ+ community, being ready to lend an ear to listen, to help shoulder crises, and be a voice of reassurance, safety, and advice.



Fifty years ago Switchboard was only open for a few hours in the evening, but it has now grown to not only serve the Islington and London community, but the LGBTQ+ community nationwide. Since I last visited ten years ago, it is clear how much their role has changed, and they are now spending much more time supporting LGBTQ+ people with their mental health and wellbeing. Switchboard volunteers are a deep well of knowledge, understanding, and compassion; and I would like to thank those on call that day who took the time to talk to me about their work.

Pizza event with Hackney and Islington activists

This month I hosted a pizza party for Islington and Hackney Labour activists at the Hammerton Brewery on Caledonian Road. It was a great opportunity to bring everyone together and to thank them for their hard work getting Labour candidates elected in London and beyond.



We heard from our local London Assembly member and candidate, Sem; De Beauvoir councillor, Joe; Hackney Mayor, Caroline; and leader of Islington Council, Kaya, about how important these local elections are.

And it was brilliant to introduce Labour members from across North London to Hammerton's fantastic beer and pizza.



What else I've been up to this month



Discussing Labour's pledges to tackle crime on Good Morning Britain



Braving the rain to campaign for Labour's general election candidate Sarah Sackman in Finchley and Golders Green



Local election campaigning in Milton Keynes



Campaigning with local members in Holloway



DJing at a Labour fundraiser at the London Irish Centre

Appearing on Radio 4's Westminster Hour



Local elections campaigning in Hastings and Rye



Diary

Constituency and campaigning

23 Mar - Canvassing in Clerkenwell
24 Mar - Pizza event with Labour activists from Islington and Hackney

5 April - St Luke's constituent surgery
5 April - Roving surgery
5 April - Meeting with the owner of the Drapers Arms pub
6 April - Launch of the De Beauvoir byelection campaign
8 April - Campaigning in Finchley and Golders Green
9 April - Campaigning in Holloway
10 April - Visit to Switchboard
10 April - CLP and City University pub quiz
11 April - Local election campaigning in Milton Keynes
12 April - Local election campaigning in St Leonard's, Hastings
13 April - Town Hall constituent surgery

Parliament and Shadow Attorney General

20 Mar - Media round including BBC 5Live and Sky News
20 Mar - Meeting with Stop Scams UK
21 Mar - Charging Commission visit to Hammersmith Advance Women's Centre
21 Mar - Meeting with the Women's Resource Centre
22 Mar - Media Round including BBC Breakfast, Today Programme, Times Radio, Sky News, Good Morning Britain and LBC
24 Mar - Radio 4 Westminster Hour

15 April - Meeting with Match Group about romance fraud
15 April - Meeting with the Payment Systems Regulator
16 April - Meeting with the Law Society
16 April - Attending Bar Council
17 April - AgeUK roundtable about fraud
17 April - Meeting with Spotlight on Corruption

