

View from the House

Two topics dominate this week. The devastating news that Jo Cox MP for Batley and Spen was shot and stabbed on her way to a surgery and the EU referendum.

Last Thursday was a devastating day for us and for our country. Jo Cox, this brilliant and talented young MP, wife and mother to two young children, was murdered whilst doing her job and meeting her constituents.

Many of you have contacted me offering your condolences and I will pass them on to her family. I would also like to thank those of you who have sent me kind words of gratitude and support for the work that I do as an MP. It is comforting to receive messages of thanks.

Jo's family were in the flotilla that travelled on the Thames in support of the EU. Like me, she was campaigning for us to Remain in the EU.

Please don't be misled by talk of taking back control. We have not given control to the EU. Just 13% of our laws have anything to do with the EU. Housing, health, education, defence – all these fundamental issues are completely controlled by the UK government.

The economic case for remaining in the EU is overwhelming. What is certain is that if the UK leaves then our economy will shrink in size. There will be less tax coming in to spend on our NHS, fewer jobs and attacks on our hard won rights at work which are protected by the EU. It will be bad for women and bad for families.

I believe the common sense decision, the responsible choice for our children and future generations is to make the EU work better for us – not to leap into the dark and uncertainty.

It would be like our top football teams voting to leave the Champions League to just play in England. They would lose influence, lose money, lose top players and reduce fans' enjoyment. Being in the EU we are a big team in the biggest league in the world.

We are the 5th largest economy in the world because we are in the EU. Nearly 50% of our trade and up to 4 million jobs are linked to our tariff free trade in the EU.

Let's remain united in diversity. Let's reject Little Britain – smaller, less important and isolated.

I would urge you to join me in voting REMAIN to keep the Great in Great Britain.

Valerie Vaz MP

19 June 2016