

eNews

from Rt Hon Valerie Vaz MP

April 2024

Bentley & Darlaston North - Darlaston South - Pleck - Palfrey - Paddock - St. Matthew's - Pheasey Park Farm



Cross Party letter calling for arms to Israel to be suspended



I signed the cross-party letter on the 27 March to the Foreign Secretary and the Business Secretary calling on the Government to immediately suspend arms sales to Israel. The letter was signed by 135 parliamentarians, from parties across the political spectrum. ☯

Vaisakhi 2024



I was delighted to take part in the procession to celebrate Vaisakhi. We processed from the Gurdwara in Caldmore to the Gurdwara in Pleck. There was a huge crowd from the Sikh community, more than last year, who took part. It was good to see the values of kindness tolerance and generosity as food and water was distributed to the procession. I wish everyone health opportunity and happiness. ☯

Cross-Party letter by Parliamentarians on famine in Gaza



I have added my name to the letter dated 28 March 2024 to the Foreign Secretary signed by cross-party Parliamentarians on famine in Gaza, demanding that Israel stops using starvation as a weapon of war, demanding the restoration of UK funds to UNRWA and calling on the Government to put pressure on Israel as it continues to block full access of humanitarian aid into Gaza, in breach of international law. 111 MPs have signed, in addition 8 MPs who added their names once the letter had been sent. ☯

Tobacco and Vapes Bill



I was pleased to vote in favour of the Bill at 2nd reading whose full title is: to make provision about the supply of tobacco, vapes and other products, including provision prohibiting the sale of tobacco to people born on or after 1 January 2009; to enable product requirements to be imposed in connection with tobacco, vapes and other products. This is an important public health issue and ensures young people are not exposed to smoking at an early age. Sir Richard Doll first made the link between smoking and cancer. 🌀

Fr Gabriel Romanelli, Holy Family Church, Gaza meets Parliamentarians



The Catholic Bishop's Conference of England & Wales held a briefing with Fr Gabriel, Catholic priest at Holy Family Church, Gaza on 23 April 2024. This is the only Catholic Church. Fr Gabriel has been in the Holy Land since 1995 and lives in Gaza; the border remains closed. The Holy Family passed through Gaza that is why it is called the Holy Family Church. There have always been Christians there who are the descendants of the first disciples of Jesus Christ. Fr Gabriel said there is electricity for 4 hours. Before 2003 there were 500 trucks of Aid. The majority of the population are civilians. People who need surgery must be able to leave Gaza. 🌀

Charing Westminster Hall Debate



As a member of the Chair's Panel, I chaired 2 debates in Westminster Hall. The first one from 9.30am -11.00 on Food Waste and Food Distribution and moved by Jo Gideon (Stoke on Trent Central). The 2nd debate from 11-11.30am was Citizens' Assemblies and Local Democracy and moved by Debbie Abrahams (Oldham East and Saddleworth). Westminster Hall debates enable MPs to raise issues with a response from the Minister. 🌀

Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill



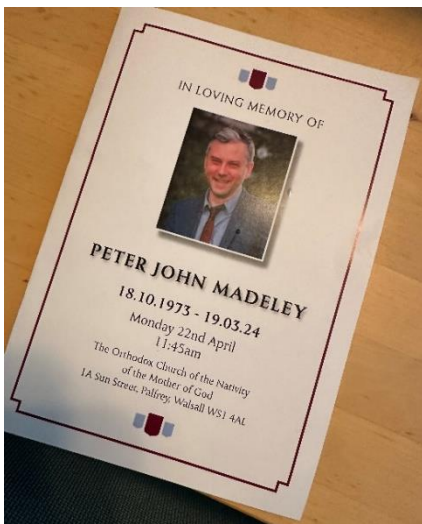
On 15 April, 17 April and 22 April 2024, the Lords sent back to the Commons their amendments to the Bill 3 times: the amendments were put to the House to disagree with the Lord's amendments. This is known as Ping – Pong as the amendments pass between the Commons and the Lords. I voted in favour of the Lord's amendments and against the Bill. You can see my full voting record on [my website](#) 🌀

Petition on Infected Blood



On 23 April 2024 I presented a petition signed by constituents as part of the campaign to ensure that compensation is paid to the victims of infected blood. The petition stated that people who received infected blood, who have suffered, along with their families, waited far too long for redress. Some of them have found it very difficult to access their medical records over a long time, and the petition requested the House of Commons to urge the Government to implement the recommendations in the Second Interim Report of the Infected Blood Inquiry without delay. 🌀

Peter John Madeley 18.10.1973-19.3.1924



It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of Pete Madeley, Political Editor at the Express and Star. I attended his funeral service which took place at The Orthodox Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God which is in Sun Street Palfrey. Pete was an engaging political Editor, and it was always good to have conversations with him. He supported Aston Villa, and it was a nice touch to see the colours picked out on the shields on the order of Service. Fr Samuel conducted the Service. My deepest condolences to Pete's wife Marina and his young children Thalia and Elias, his father John, mother Pat and sister Liz. May he rest in peace. 🌀

Football Governance Bill



The Football Governance Bill had its second reading on Tuesday 23 April 2024. This is a landmark bill which establishes a regulator which will ensure clubs are regulated with a light touch but with sanctions. There will be a fit and proper test for Directors and the regulator will be able to intervene on behalf of the fans for example if the name, colours are changed, and the Stadium is moved. However, the Bill does not change parachute payments paid to clubs as they go down from the Premier League to the Championship and back up. 🌀

Football Governance Bill Interventions:



I made 3 interventions. to pay tribute to the Minister Stuart Andrew for the cross party work which shaped the Bill; 2: "Do the regulators have sufficient power to intervene if some of the owners are servicing debts in other areas of their company?" and 3: " Does she agree with me that the women's game, out of scope of the Bill, is growing exponentially, and that there is scope for the hon. Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Dame Tracey Crouch), in a new role, to look at the women's game and see whether we could have some regulation there?" 🌀

Renters (Reform) Bill: Report Stages



I have long supported calls for more rights and better protections for tenants, including a ban on section 21 evictions to prevent renters from being uprooted with little notice and minimal justification. The sector needs to be reformed to tilt the balance of power towards renters and make renting fairer, more secure and more affordable. There are loopholes that could be used by ill-intentioned landlords to exploit tenants and evict them unfairly. the Government announcement that a ban on section 21 evictions will be delayed until court reforms have been implemented. Renters cannot afford more delays – they need security now. 🌀

Global Ocean Treaty



I chaired the debate in Westminster Hall on 25 April 2024 opened by Kevin Foster MP, Torbay. The UK was one of the first to sign the agreement, 20 September 2023, the day it opened for signature at the UN, 60 states or organisations must become party to the agreement, 120 days must pass after deposit of the 60th instrument of ratification before it can enter into force. The first Conference of the Parties will be able to meet within a year of that date late 2026. The agreement has gained 89 signatures and four ratifications so far. 🌀