

eNEWS

from Rt Hon Valerie Vaz MP

September 2025

**Birchills Leamore - Blakenall - Bloxwich East - Bloxwich West
Paddock (Part of Ward) - Palfrey - Pleck - St. Matthew's**



Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Questions



On 2 September 2025 at FCDO questions I asked the question: "Could the Minister update the House on the reduction in assistance to places including Myanmar, and the effect on democracy there, and the imprisonment of Daw Suu?". The overseas aid budget is important to ensure civic society has the means to empower local citizens and is available to local organisations to support democracy. 🌀

Visit to Bloxwich Academy Primary



I was delighted to visit Bloxwich Primary and was shown around by Assistant Head, Nicola Stubbs, (left) on 12 September 2025. Bloxwich Primary is a charity and community instilled school with 4 school houses, linked to local charities and hospitals. The school is rated 'Good' by Ofsted. I was pleased to hear about the Reading Ambassadors scheme which ensures the upkeep of the libraries and where sixth form volunteers also help KS1&KS2 with reading opportunities. 🌀

My Statement on the Lisbon Elevador Gloria Funicular Tragedy



As Chair of the APPG on Portugal, I wrote to the Portugal Ambassador to the UK HE Nuno Brito expressing my condolences on the tragic events on 3 September 2025. My prayers are with those who have died, are injured, and those who have lost loved ones. May the departed rest in peace. The death toll has now risen to 17 as at 15 September 2025 including 3 people from the UK. The photo is St Anthony's altar in Lisboa. 🌀

Marking the Recognition of the State of Palestine



As a member of the Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East (LFPME) I attended an event marking the recognition of the State of Palestine to show my support. The Prime Minister announced on 21 September 2025 that the UK Government is recognising the State of Palestine. I am pictured with Ambassador Dr Husum Zomlot, Head of the Palestinian Mission to the United Kingdom.🌀

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill



The Bill had its 2nd reading on 2 September. It will be scrutinised in a Public Bill Committee line by line. As I am chairing the Bill Committee, I am unable to take part in further votes. The Bill sets out a new devolution architecture for England, centred around the new category of “strategic authorities” (SAs) to address the over-centralisation of power in England. 🌀

Celebrating 25 years of the Football Foundation



It was great to meet Lucy Bronze MBE to celebrate 25 years of the Football Foundation on 8 September 2025. Lucy plays for Chelsea and England. We celebrated 25 years of the Football Foundation’s (FF) investment into grassroots sports facilities with money from the Premier League, The FA and Government. The FF recently secured £1.5 billion– totalling £2.8 billion of investment into grassroots football since 2000 <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/> 🌀

Valerie visits Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Caldmore



After the horrific attack on a young Sikh woman where she was subjected to an assault with the perpetrator making racially aggravated comments, I visited the Guru Nanak Gurdwara and spoke to the trustees and the congregation, setting out the steps I will be taking to raise the issue with the Government and protection for Gurdwaras and the Sikh community.🌀

Employment Rights Bill - Consideration of Lords' Amendments



The Bill passed its Third Reading in the House of Commons on 11 March 2025. As I chaired the Bill Committee, I am unable to vote on the Bill. There were 12 amendments selected for debates and votes, and all 12 were rejected. The Bill will return to the Lords for consideration of the Commons vote on their amendments. 🌀

Publishers Association's Annual Reception



I was delighted to attend the Publishers Association's Annual Reception in Parliament on Tuesday 9 September 2025. As Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Publishing. (Main photo L-R: Rt Hon Valerie Vaz MP, Professor Mike Berners-Lee, Baroness Gail Rebuck, Mandy Hill, Dan Conway, CEO of the Publishers Association). 🌀

Renters' Rights Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments



Amendments made in Lords to the Bill returned to the Commons for consideration on 8 September. All the amendments were rejected, and the Bill now returns to the House of Lords for further consideration. The Bill includes greater security rights and protections for 11 million private renters and delivers on the commitment to level the playing field between landlord and tenant. 🌀

Valerie intervenes in Adjournment Debate on Accessibility



On 9 September 2025 I intervened in a debate secured by Helen Hayes MP about the accessibility of stations: "She mentioned a list of stations in her constituency, I would like to mention Bescot Stadium Station in my constituency. Does she agree that if a station is inaccessible, the figures that are quoted for its footfall will be much lower?" I intervened on the Minister to say that disabled people who cannot use the station are not included in the figures. The Minister will "get back to me." 🌀

Bus Services Bill – Report Stage and Third Reading



The amendments to the Bill were debated on 10 September 2025. The Bill gives transport authorities the power to determine the bus operating model that works for their local area and provide powers to underpin those models. The Bill was read a third time and passed: Ayes 362, Noes 87. 🌀

Valerie Chairs Evidence Session on English Devolution Bill



I chaired the first evidence session on the Bill which reforms local government and gives communities the right to shape their local areas. It will also restore the supplementary vote system for mayoral elections in England, and police and crime commissioner elections in England and Wales. The purpose of the Bill is to transfer power out of Westminster, by giving local leaders the tools to deliver growth, fixing the foundations of local government, and empowering communities. 🌀

The Public Office (Accountability) Bill/ Hillsborough Law



Since the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 claimed 97 lives, it has taken 36 years to introduce this Bill and a response to state injustices. The Bill provides legal aid for bereaved families and the largest expansion in legal aid in over a decade. Trust and justice must never be concealed by the state again. The Hillsborough Law has four pieces of a jigsaw to protect rights: a duty of candour; individual accountability; full disclosure of evidence when things go wrong; and legal representation at inquests. 🌀

Sentencing Bill - Second Reading



The Commons met on 16 September 2025 to debate and vote on the Bill at Second Reading. The Bill aims to ease prison overcrowding and keep dangerous offenders in custody longer. The reasoned amendment lost: Ayes 78, Noes 292. The Bill was read a second time and the Bill passed: Ayes 340, Noes 77 🌀

West Midlands Growth Project Launch



I attended the West Midlands Growth Project Launch with the Mayor Richard Parker. The vision is to increase residents' living standards across all parts of the West Midlands. This means bringing more people into decent quality jobs, increasing the productivity of the region's economy and reducing poverty and deprivation, while making further progress to net zero. 🌀

Hereditary Peers Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments



The House of Commons considered amendments made by the House of Lords to the Bill on 4 September 2025. The Government promised in 2024 to legislate to remove the last remaining hereditary peers from the House of Lords and this Bill delivers on that promise. All the motions put forward by the Lords were rejected and the Bill now returns to the House of Lords for further consideration. 🌀

TUC and Thompsons Pre-Congress Parliamentary Reception



The TUC's 157th Annual Congress on 7-10 September 2025 was celebrated in Parliament in partnership with Thompsons Solicitors. There were speeches from the Prime Minister the Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP, Paul Nowak, General Secretary of the TUC and Claire Mellor, Chief Executive of Thompsons Solicitors. I am pictured with Darren Jones, MP who was recently appointed Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. 🌀

