

MARINA AHMAD AM

London Assembly Member for Lambeth & Southwark

Welcome to 2026



May I start by wishing you all a peaceful and prosperous 2026.

Please find my latest Newsletter about some of the issues I deal with as London Assembly Member for Lambeth and Southwark, and those in my role as Chair of the Police and Crime Committee at City Hall.

Bussin' it



We have had some great news on bus services in Lambeth and Southwark this year! The introduction of the “Bakerloo” bus service covering the route of the proposed Bakerloo Line extension is a cause for celebration. Whilst we wait for funding to become available, extending the Superloop network is a creative way to demonstrate just how valuable this investment would be.



TfL has also awarded £10 million to Southwark Council over the next four years to help improve efficiency, performance and journey times on buses across the borough as part of the Better Bus Partnership. For people across Southwark this money means better bus services, improved safety and cleaner and greener streets.



Visiting the Blood Donor Centre in Brixton



I joined the Deputy Mayor of London for Communities, Debbie Weekes-Bernard on a visit to the Blood Donor Centre in Brixton. As a member of the London Assembly Health Committee, I know how important it is to ensure that the NHS has a good supply of the various blood types. I would urge you all to donate if you can, to save lives

Protecting Young Women and Girls

Violence Against Women and Girls needs to stop. It is vital that we work with local communities, the police, local authorities and the many members of the public who are invested in tackling this issue.

The Police and Crime Committee is also looking at the rise in hate crimes directed at women and girls on Public Transport. We have raised questions about the main barriers preventing victims of hate crime or Violence Against Women and Girls from reporting incidents, and whether public information campaigns have been effective.

As a woman and mother of girls, this is a personal issue for me and I will continue to campaign and hold the Met and Mayor to account.

Finally, I also supported a cross party motion which called for justice for grooming gangs' victims and called for the full resources of City Hall to be used to assist the police in their work on this horrific issue. I am pleased that the Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan, has announced a £2.4million package of support for victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation which includes advocacy, counselling and therapeutic interventions.

Policing and young people



The Police and Crime Committee is about to publish our report on neighbourhood policing and young people. Young people have a unique perspective on policing issues and our recommendations are made to reflect their experience and ensure they feel safe in our communities.

Finally, we are investigating how the Met police are updating their policies and practices on Child Exploitation and missing children, given the HMICFRS review in 2024 which found that our police are not up to standard on this issue.

New boat service for Rotherhithe

A new Thames clipper connection between Rotherhithe and Canary Wharf has been launched, and I was pleased to join the first service with the Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan. River transport is becoming a more popular way of getting around the city again, so it's good to see new connections being established.



Visiting the Diversity Festival at Dulwich College

It was great to attend the Diversity Festival held at Dulwich College. London is built on diversity and I am proud that we are all loved and wanted here. We live in difficult times and events like this counteract the hatred and attempts at division that cloud our horizon.



Make It Stop campaign



I supported the "Make It Stop" campaign, a community group campaigning against violent crime, particularly knife crime. This initiative uses tree planting as a symbol of hope for communities affected by youth violence in order to "build something from small beginnings".

Tackling Islamophobia

As the first Muslim woman to be elected to the London Assembly, I was pleased to work cross-party to table a motion on tackling Islamophobia, calling for the Mayor to:

- Ensure the MOPAC Budget submission 2026-27 commits further funding for a seventh tranche of the Shared Endeavour Fund.
- Commit to tasking each functional body of the GLA with embedding its own religious awareness and hate crime training for staff.
- Continue to stand against Islamophobia and all forms of hate crime.



I am pleased to say that there was cross party support and the motion was agreed unanimously.

100 new affordable homes for Oval Village

The Oval Village development reached a major milestone, as 100 high quality affordable homes for rent and sale were delivered in November. I was pleased to attend the handing over ceremony and meet those involved in the project.



3 years of Free School Meals



The Mayor has now provided over 100 million free school meals to primary aged children across London. Sadiq has invested £140 million so far, saving families in Lambeth up to £500 per child and allowing Southwark (who I'm pleased to say were already offering this) to extend its offer to families across the borough. I am incredibly proud of the impact that my 2022 report 'Growing Hungry' had with its recommendation of universal free school meals for all state primary school children in London, that was picked up by the Mayor

I was delighted to join pupils and staff at Iqra School in Lambeth with the Deputy Mayor of London for Children and Young People, Joanne McCartney AM, to hear what this policy has meant.

An Elephant never forgets...



It was good to have a look at progress on the new Elephant development, and see behind the scenes at the ongoing work on the new Elephant and Castle station.

And finally... Celebrating 25 years of the GLA!

It has been 25 years since the creation of the Greater London Authority and the establishment of the Mayor of London and London Assembly. We had a wonderful celebration at City Hall, where I was joined by the Mayors of both Lambeth and Southwark.



We also celebrated the news that the Chair of the Assembly, Len Duvall AM, the longest serving Assembly Member, has been appointed to the House of Lords. A well deserved recognition for his outstanding contributions!

Get In Touch:

Write to me about your local enquiries, comments, and community organisations. Please email me at Marina.Ahmad@london.gov.uk or follow updates on X, Instagram & Facebook @LabourMarina