



LATEST NEWS FROM REHMAN CHISHTI

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GILLINGHAM & RAINHAM

November 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to my November 2018 newsletter!

Thank you for your interest in the work I do on behalf of constituents. Please see below for a summary of my commitments in the constituency and in Parliament.

If you would like further details on my work or would like to contact me, please [visit my website](#).

Best wishes, Rehman.

In the constituency



Rehman held his regular MP Street Surgery across the constituency, speaking to residents, listening to their views and taking up matters on their behalf.



Rehman attended the Napier Academy's Cedar Class Assembly (Pictured with teachers Mr Pugh & Miss Rosser).



Rehman held a meeting with residents in Rainham Central with Cllr Barry Kemp & Cllr Jan Aldous, as well as the Chief Executive of Southern Water hearing residents views on flooding in their area and working with stakeholders in finding solutions.



Rehman met veterans and members of the Armed Forces and members of Brompton Royal Engineers at Priestfield ahead of the Remembrance Service and game against Fleetwood.



At the Gills FC match against Fleetwood Rehman met members of the Armed Forces collecting for the Poppy Legion.



Rehman met the Brompton Military Wives Choir singing at Hempstead Valley Gillingham in support of the Poppy Legion.



Rehman met the Medway Health Walks group and their group leader Peter - organised by Medway Council these walks take place regularly across Medway and are open to all ages and abilities.



Rehman campaigned in Twydall meeting local residents and taking up issues on their behalf with the Gillingham and Rainham Conservatives team.



Rehman visited the new £11.5 Million Government funded Emergency Department Building at Medway Hospital and sends his thanks to the staff and leadership at the hospital for all their hard work. He was also interviewed by Jo on BBC Radio Kent.



Rehman joined friends of Gillingham Park, the Gillingham Women's Institute, Cllr Purdy, Cllr Saroy & members of the local community in laying a Remembrance wreath in Gillingham Park.



Rehman attended the Remembrance Service at St Marks Church Gillingham led by Rev Saju and Rev Maskell.



Rehman welcomed the Chairman of Gillingham & Rainham Conservative Association & Parliamentary Agent Brigita, Deputy Chairman John and Cathy to Parliament.



Rehman attended the Wigmore Residents meeting with local Councillors Cllr Rodney Chambers, Diane Chambers, Jan Aldous, and members of the local policing team.



Rehman visited Rainham Mark Grammar School as part of Parliament Week talking about his role as their MP.



Rehman attended the Oast Rainham Christmas Bazaar and saw the various stalls.



Rehman attended the Hempstead Village Christmas Fair at All Saints Church Hempstead.



Rehman attended the Sunday service at St Margaret's Church Rainham led by Rev Jonathan Jennings.



Rehman met with the Vicar of Holy Trinity Church Twydall and Chair of Governors at Twydall Primary School Reverend Ann Richardson.



Rehman spoke at the Medway Conservatives Lunch, followed by a Question and Answer session.



Rehman went to the Byron Road Gurdwara Gillingham to celebrate the birthday of the founder of the Sikh faith Guru Nanak Dev Ji.



Rehman had a catch up meeting with Rev Nathan Ward St Margaret's Church Rainham and heard about his schools anti-bullying initiative work with local businesses.



Rehman attended and spoke at the Christian Coalition for Education Conference (CCFE) along with Bishop Michael Nazir Ali the former Bishop of Rochester.



Rehman welcomed the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock to Medway Hospital along with fellow Medway MPs Kelly Tolhurst and Tracey Crouch. He made clear to the Secretary of State that Medway must have a HASU Stroke unit, introduced him to the staff and leadership, and saw the new Emergency Department Unit.

Parliamentary Work



Rehman met with the Singapore High Commissioner HE Ms Foo Chi Hsia looking at all aspects of UK-Singapore relations including the strong trade links (bilateral trade worth over £11billion), the Singapore community in the UK & vice versa and bilateral relations post-Brexit.



Rehman was interviewed by Nick Robinson on BBC Radio 4 on the Asia Bibi case, calling for the UK to do the right thing and offer asylum to Asia Bibi.



Rehman welcomed Shahid Afridi to Parliament (one of world's best all round cricketers & former captain of the Pakistan team and Hampshire Cricket team).



In his capacity as Chair of the Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council, Rehman held a meeting with H.E. Alexandre Fasel, the Ambassador of Switzerland to the UK, looking at all aspects of UK-Switzerland bilateral relations.



Rehman met with Bishop Michael Nazir Ali to look at the next steps on the Asia Bibi Case following his recent visit to Pakistan. Rehman's letter to the Prime Minister now has 125 Parliamentarians supporting it, calling for the Government to do the right thing and offer asylum to Asia Bibi.



In his capacity as Vice Chair of the APPG on Mental Health Rehman Chaired the Westminster Mental Health Forum on the next steps for mental health services in England.



As Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Pakistan Rehman welcomed the Chief Justice of Pakistan to Parliament.

Campaigner of the week

BY DAVID SINGLETON

REHMAN CHISHTI



WHAT

Chishti is leading calls for persecuted Pakistani citizen Asia Bibi to be given refuge in Britain. The 53-year-old Christian woman was wrongly sentenced to death for allegedly insulting the Prophet Mohammed. She was acquitted by Pakistan's supreme court last month after eight years in jail on blasphemy charges and is now in hiding.

WHY

The overturning of Bibi's death sentence infuriated Islamists and she now faces being lynched by extremists. Thousands of hardliners have protested against the supreme court's ruling and demanded that she be hanged. However Imran Khan's government announced it would try to prevent Bibi from leaving the country, which her supporters likened to "signing her death warrant". The Foreign Office this week urged the Home Office not to grant Bibi political asylum in the UK out of fear for the safety of UK consular staff.

HOW

In 2014, Chishti got over 55 MPs to sign a letter demanding justice for Bibi. This week, the Conservative MP wrote to British prime minister again, asking for the government to provide asylum to Bibi and her family "if and when a request is made through the appropriate channels". This time he got support from 67 parliamentarians. Chishti also appeared on the



Today programme. "We have a moral obligation as the United Kingdom to give sanctuary to someone who's been persecuted for their faith, but whose life is in grave danger," he told presenter Nick Robinson.

ANYONE ELSE?

Boris Johnson has also weighed in with a letter to the home secretary, arguing that "we cannot allow the threat of violence to deter us from doing the right thing". Meanwhile while foreign affairs select committee chair Tom Tugendhat raised the issue with Foreign Office permanent secretary, Sir Simon McDonald. Tugendhat took the committee into lengthy private session after McDonald said he did not wish to give evidence in public on a such a sensitive issue.

The House Magazine named Rehman Campaigner of the Week for his long-standing campaign for justice in the Asia Bibi case, including a letter to the Prime Minister calling on the British Government to offer asylum to Asia Bibi and her family signed by 125 Parliamentarians.



Rehman supported the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at their event in Parliament and learnt more about their important work- they honour over 1.7m men & women of Commonwealth forces who died in both world wars.



Rehman attended Aid to the Church in Need's Religious Freedom Report Launch in Parliament hosted by Lord Alton (pictured with John Pontifex from the ACN).



Rehman called on the Ambassador of Portugal to the UK H.E. Manuel Lobo Antunes to look at all aspects of UK-Portugal relations, including bilateral trade (worth £7.6bn in 2016), the Portugese Community in the UK (90k+) and the British community in Portugal (80k+), as well as relations post-Brexit.



Rehman raised the following issues in Parliament:

- Protecting Green Spaces locally
- Offering asylum to Asia Bibi & her family
- Increasing the rate of successful terrorism prosecutions
- The Church of England supporting local communities
- Improving the cyber security of public & private organisations

Home Affairs Select Committee

- Rehman questioned Home Secretary Sajid Javid on Border Security (concerning a number of migrant boats and individuals coming to coast of Kent).
- As part of the Home Affairs Select Committee's Inquiry into Hate Crime Rehman questioned experts on far right extremism, the adequacy of current legislation and the level of hate crime convictions.

Rehman also featured in the media:

- BBC Radio Kent on Medway Hospital's new Emergency Department (pictured)
- BBC Radio 4 on the Asia Bibi case
- Rehman's resignation as Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party and as the Government's Trade Envoy to Pakistan (On the basis that he cannot support Draft EU Withdrawal Agreement and the lack of leadership shown by UK Government to do the morally right thing in the Asia Bibi Case) was covered in the Medway Messenger as well as across the national media including Sky News, BBC News, the Daily Mail, The Times, The Telegraph, ITV News and Eastern Eye.

