



International

I maintain a keen interest in international affairs, relating to the 'home' countries of our many communities. I'm the **vice-chair of Labour Friends of Israel**, and of the **Friends of Cyprus Group** – I'm recognised as one of the many experts in the Commons on these parts of the world. I regularly raise issues relating to India (**Vice-Chair of Labour Friends of India**), Sri Lanka, and Africa, too.

I've sponsored debates or raised questions on all these parts of the world, over the last year.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (an international organisation of about 150 parliaments around the world) appointed me as their reporter on people trafficking (following the work of my human rights committee – see above).

Backbench Independence

I've never sought ministerial office in government, with the compromises this usually requires. I've always preferred the backbenches, where I can speak up for Hendon and for you, campaigning, and when necessary, rejecting the power of the whips.

All Party Groups

These are Parliamentary groups of MPs, where we lobby for important causes across the party political divide. I chair the **Far East Prisoners of War Group**, fighting for justice for those interned in World War 2 by the Japanese; the **Chinese in Britain Group**, giving a Parliamentary voice to a particularly excluded minority; and the **Fire Brigades Union Group**, interested in the fire service and fire safety; and I am active amongst others, in the **Occupational Health Group** (especially on asbestos hazards), the **War Crimes Group**; and as vice-chair, the **Olympics Group**.

Numerology : My performance in Parliament

- Spoke in **55 Debates** in the last year – well above the average amongst MPs.
- Received answers to **259 written questions** in the last year- well above average amongst MPs.
- A member of **3 Select Committees** (1 as chair); (Human rights—Chair; Standards and Privileges; Liaison Committee—the Commons coordinating committee)
- **Replied** within 2 or 3 weeks to a **high number of messages** sent via WriteToThem.com during 2006, according to constituents.
- Voted in **88% of votes in Parliament** – well above average amongst MPs. (Only absent for either constituency engagements or Parliamentary duties away from Westminster).
- **Asks most questions about:**
Departments: Home Affairs, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Health, Education and Skills, Constitutional Affairs.

Since	Rebellions	Attendance	Teller
5 May 2005	17 votes out of 502 , 3.4%	502 votes out of 568, 88.4%	12 times

(These statistics from "www.TheyWorkForYou.com, and www.PublicWhip.org.uk, independent websites monitoring MPs' work)