



Reporting Back



Dear friends,

What a year! Twelve months ago, I reflected on an amazing 2015, after the Conservatives under David Cameron had secured the election of the first Conservative majority government since 1992 - defying the opinion polls.

In years to come, we will look back at 2016 as a year where we lived through an important time in our nation's history, especially those extraordinary days between the EU referendum on 23 June - after which David Cameron resigned - and 16 July when Theresa May became our Prime Minister.

Whatever our own views on the EU referendum and the US presidential election, the resounding message from voters, on both sides of the Atlantic, is that people feel the mainstream media and politicians ignore their concerns.

The challenge for the Centre-Right is to create the right conditions for companies and businesses to grow and create jobs while competing in global markets, while at the same time addressing the concerns of those who lose out from changes.

I will spend the coming months giving speeches about the options for Brexit, listening to concerns and aspirations and answering any questions you may have about the process of leaving the EU. If you would like me to speak at an event you are hosting, please do get in touch. Or, simply email me if you wish to let me know your thoughts.

In the mean time, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BREXIT - NEXT STEPS



Talking about Brexit on Sky News during Conservative Conference 2016

After the result of the EU referendum, some EU politicians spoke of punishing Britain and tried to bully us into starting the departure process immediately. But, I stressed the need for cool heads and for patient negotiation to ensure that both Britain and the EU reach a deal in both our long-term interests.

We now need to be pushing for a good UK-EU trade agreement for everyone. To help understand the next steps, I have written a pocket guide on Brexit explaining Article 50, the negotiation process and different options for future UK-EU relations. It is available online at www.syedkamall.co.uk/brexitguide. Please contact me if you would like a hard copy

BRUSSELS REACTS TO BREXIT - MY SPEECH

To say that those who believe in the European Project of building a United States of Europe had a shock when Britain voted for Brexit is an understatement. I delivered a speech shortly afterwards to the European Parliament in which I pointed out that the aggressive posturing of some UK and EU politicians towards each other needed to stop and that the heads of the respective governments should instead take command of the situation with cooler heads. I also pointed out that this was a wake up call for the EU to reform and that MEPs and Commissioners should learn the lessons of recent EU referendums. I explained that the British people had voted to leave for many reasons, but partly because in the public's minds the EU had become more detached and unaccountable.



Addressing the European Parliament in the post-referendum debate

HELD IN IRAN - KAMAL FOROUGHI

Kamran Foroughi's father Kamal is being held in an Iranian jail convicted of spying, a charge he strenuously denies. Despite years of promises that he would be released, this has not yet happened. Now Kamal Foroughi is said to be in poor health and has severely restricted contact with his family. Kamran contacted me to ask for my help in raising the profile of his father's case. I met with him to hear about the impact on his family and what he hopes we can all do to help. I have already raised the issue in Brussels myself in order to put pressure on the Iranian authorities to bring a satisfactory resolution to the case.



Discussing Kamal Foroughi's case with his son Kamran

TACKLING ANTI-RADICALISATION WITH SPORT



Discussing how cricket can help combat extremism

I've said it before, but sport has the power to be a real weapon in the fight against radicalisation. Unfortunately, extremists play on the insecurities of vulnerable young people when recruiting them to become terrorists. Sport can offer an alternative narrative bringing together people from different backgrounds to learn mutual respect and boundaries, standing them in good stead on the sports field and in life.

In previous newsletters, I have written about my work with The Unity of Faith Foundation's (TUFF FC) football project in west London which has successfully prevented young people falling prey to gang culture and terrorism. TUFF is now seeking to expand that success into other sports. I recently chaired a meeting between TUFF and a number of cricket organisations to discuss how they could all work together. I hope to report more good news on this story in the new year.

CITY HALL CONFERENCE ON CROWDFUNDING LOCAL PROJECTS

Crowdfunding is changing the way people back projects they believe in. It could be a business, it could be the arts or it could be a local community project that transforms an area.

I recently organised a conference with Conservative London Assembly Member Keith Prince at City Hall to look at how Crowdfunding could be used in the community. I gave a number of examples including that of the Purley Youth Project, that I have been working with. When the local council cut their grant, we launched a crowdfunding campaign on the CrowdPatch website that raised the funds. The power of the crowd has already started to secure their future



With Purley Youth Project Juniors at City Hall

OUT & ABOUT IN LONDON AND THE EU



Campaigning in Eltham North (Greenwich)

If you would like me to speak at an Association event, support a local campaign or help with an issue, please contact me at:

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With Danish Foreign Minister
Kristian Jensen



Visiting Purley Youth Project Juniors
Helping with their crowdfunding campaign



With Jan Jambon,
Belgian Deputy Prime Minister