

**MONDAY 21 MAY 2018**  
**Lambeth Town Hall**  
**Brixton Hill**  
**London SW2 1RW**  
**12 pm to 2.30 pm**  
**RoomTH1-16**

***ELDER ABUSE AND DISABLED PEOPLE***

**Speaker: TBC**

When we become older and are unable to live independently, there is an expectation that our individual, physical, mental and emotional needs as the case might, will be met either in one's home through domiciliary or family care or in a care setting privately or local authority funded and in an environment of care, trust and understanding.

Unfortunately there has been a record of incidences reported of single or repeated acts of inappropriate behaviours and actions perpetrated against older adults by family members, friends, neighbours or services older people rely on. Elder abuse has reared its ugly head in the form of physical, emotional, financial, sexual abuse and neglect. It has been broadened to cover abandonment, denial of civil and Human Rights and institutional abuse.

While there are laws to protect children and animals there is no law which protects older adults from abuse. The NPC has joined the campaign for such a law which is long overdue. Disabled people including the elderly have often been neglected in the debate regarding elder abuse and our meeting hopes open up the discussion about what needs to be done to highlight the issue and what action needs to be taken to effect change. This debate is about us and our future in an ageing population. Come and be part of that debate.

**A victory on the Town Hall issue**

A big thank you to members who attended the gathering in The Lambeth Town Hall to demand a long overdue and positive response to our request for the reinstatement

of the use of the meeting rooms and the Assembly Hall free of charge as had been the case for over 30 years. In the absence of LA leader Lib Peck and her deputy Cllr Mc Glone, Michael Warren PA to Lib Peck was forced to apologise personally for the way in which LAMPAG has been treated and to announce that our request has been granted. Although Lambeth Council was compelled to succumb to pressure, they had also been made aware of our intended action the day before by the Brixton Bugle. A phone call from Michael Warren the day before was followed by a letter of apology on behalf of the leader stating that **'it was regrettable and embarrassing that such a simple request cannot be accomplished'**. He assured us of an **'ongoing commitment and support to LAMPAG.'** We also received an apology from Lib Peck later for the **'poor way in which LAMPAG has been treated'**. She expressed the hope that the resolution of the matter will be accepted **'as a genuine attempt to make right the wrong'** and **'to show the high regard that LAMPAG is valued'**. In an email Cllr Glone indicated that in order to maintain links between the LA and LAMPAG, there would be a named person to effect and continue that liaison.

Members left with a strong sense of achievement as a result of their persistence and resolve and that their action had been rewarded. We can now definitively expect that our place in the town hall has been rightfully secured for the future. Without sounding sceptical, one can only wonder whether Lambeth Council's response and contrite expressions were due to our successful Hustings and the prospect of the local elections. Or whether it is a genuine attempt to mend fences between community groups and an attempt to value their contributions to their communities. We can only wait and see.

### ***Important reminder***

**Please note that the May meeting will be held in the Town Hall and all consecutive ones as from now onwards. Make a note in your diaries and remind friends and interested people. We need to express our gratitude to the Community Group committee and staff of Young People Matter for their help in setting up the meeting and rooms for their support. We shall be doing that in the most appropriate way.**

***Committee meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June Lambeth Town Hall, Room THG-O1  
11am -1 pm***

### **MAY DAY March and Rally.**

Members joined thousands of trade unionists, members, migrant workers, international communities and students as they marched from Clerkenwell Green to Trafalgar Square in celebration of International Workers' Day. Speakers included Zita Holbourne, PCS National Vice President, Sean MCGovern Unite/tUC workers SEAT, Mick Cash, RMT General Secretary.

The rally focussed on racism in society following the recent events surrounding the Windrush scandal and immigration. Zita Holbourne called for the exposure of continuing racist attitudes that have recently been shown up by the treatment of the Windrush Generation. The rally also highlighted the protection of workers' employment and social rights following Brexit. Speakers denounced the unfettered private greed that led to the Grenfell tragedy, the parlous state of an NHS in crisis, lack of good public housing and public services, changes to welfare benefits, universal education and pensions. The call was to fight for a better world based on social justice and for an end of society that pours massive riches on the fat cats whilst cutting pay and social benefits. **A better world was possible**

## Windrush Generation

An issue which managed to eclipse Brexit and the local elections for a while and which is ongoing is the scandal of the treatment of the Windrush generation. These people from the Caribbean who invited to the UK post WW11 to fill the skills and work gap which existed at the time. Their status was that of British subjects within the Commonwealth with the right to remain. They worked hard, paid they taxes, built homes and careers, communities. Their children have been educated in this country in fact they helped to build and run our public services. Now under British Legislation introduced by Theresa May, then Home Secretary in 2013, to their horror they now find themselves classified as 'illegal' and denied the right to permanent residency and their rights. As a result some have been denied health treatment, benefits, employment rights and access to other services. What can be more shocking after settling here for more than 50 years to be threatened with deportation to a country that you did not know and one with which you have severed links. Some deportations have already happened and there are stories of people having been detained in the notorious Yarlswood detention centre pending deportation. The Home Office has been conservative with the truth up to now but denials of rights, deportations have been happening across the country for a long time.

This has caused outrage across communities that people in this country legitimately have to fight for their rightful place in Britain. Marches, rallies and meetings have been held and outpouring of condemnation has been loud and clear. David Lammy, Chair All Party Parliamentary group on Race and Community described their treatment as 'deplorable, Immoral and inhumane'. This unjustifiable state of affairs has been put firmly at the hands of Theresa May following her announcement of creating 'a hostile environment for illegal immigrants.' The Windrush Generation, though invitees to this country found themselves caught in this labelling. That generation was supposed to have applied for British citizenship after 5 years, some had failed to do so and had no paper work to this effect. Furthermore the Home Office had destroyed the landing cards in 2010 and had failed to record the details of each individual. Stories abound of the untold anxiety, stress, exclusion, illness and even the death of those caught up in this sorry state of affairs. Most of the people affected are pensioners. As pensioners we support their cause for justice, compensation and redress.

Following pressure on the Prime Minister by the Commonwealth leaders who she was first reluctant to meet, and by the tide of anger and disbelief by groups around the country, she apologised 'over mistakes made.' Amber Rudd, former Home Secretary unable to extricate herself from a string of denials of knowledge of targets and deportations finally resigned for 'inadvertently misleading Parliament.' Sajid Javid was promptly appointed as Home Secretary. He pledged to 'ensure that all affected will be treated with decency and fairness The treatment of the Windrush Generation goes beyond this particular group. The Unfair unjust and indecent treatment of immigrants whether Commonwealth citizens and those from other countries has been going on for years and needs to be seen against a background of stricter immigration laws, Brexit and strong anti immigration sentiments by sectors in society. Sadly, while the Windrush scandal was playing out, when the country was

commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence the BBC was screening a rerun of Enoch Powell's of 'rivers of blood' speech. If just, fair, decent and proportionate treatment of all is to be achieved, it will only come about through a radical reform of immigration laws and practices and in a country which is truly welcoming tolerant and which respects and values diversity.

## **Important Notice**

### ***Health Conference***

**17<sup>th</sup> Health Conference**

**Health and the Elderly**

**Monday 16 July 2018 10am-3pm**

**(Donation £3)**

**Hosted by Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation Trust  
Organised by Lambeth Pensioners Action Group**

The Health conference is an important event in the LAMPAG calendar. It is attended by pensioners from across London and provides a valuable opportunity to be addressed by consultants on topics of our choice. They would invariably be the consultants who would be treating us should we need such medical care. It is also a chance to be addressed by a panel made up of the Chairman of the Trust, the Chief Nurse and the Director of Asset Management on projects, policies and practices aimed at enhancing patient and staff experiences. You also have an opportunity to ask questions about health care delivery at the hospital and give feedback on personal experiences.

Put the date in your diaries and publicise it widely. The conference is the only one its kind in South London to date and we are proud of our contribution to the Lambeth Community. We have received lots of complimentary feedback and topics for the forthcoming Health Conference from last year's conference which we hope to respond to and improve on.

### **Gentle reminder**

Subscriptions are due for the year March 2018 – 2019 at the increased rate of £10 payable in 2 instalments if you wish. We depend on the subscriptions, raffles, donations and fund raising events to keep up our long standing history as the campaign group for pensioners' rights.

### **Treasurer**

We were unable to elect a Treasurer at the AGM following the former Treasurer standing down. The Treasurer plays a crucial role in any group with regard to looking after our finances. Please think about putting yourself forward to fulfil this important role. You will get all the support you need to carry out your brief.