



**CAROLYN HARRIS MP**  
STANDING UP FOR SWANSEA EAST



# March 2023 Monthly Update

Our community has been reeling this month following the tragic gas explosion in Morriston. Since 11:20am on March 13<sup>th</sup>, our emergency services, local councillors, businesses and volunteers have been working tirelessly to support those affected and displaced. I am so proud and grateful for the compassion and kindness our community has shown in coming together.

My thoughts, and those of all of us in Swansea East, throughout have been with the family and friends of Brain Davies, who tragically lost his life.

## All things Wales, St David's Day and Swansea

St David's Day is a special time for all of us and that is no exception for the Welsh Labour family in Westminster. SA1 was taken over by all things Welsh and it was wonderful to see so many daffodils on show. It was a pleasure to join my Welsh Parliamentary colleagues for a ceremony raising the Welsh flag that morning outside Parliament, alongside some beautiful singing from London Welsh School pupils.

My St David's Day was made even more special by the granddaughters of the late, great Val Feld visiting Parliament. Val was treasured by so many of us in the Welsh Labour family and was a pioneer for women in politics in our little corner of the world. I was so proud to see her fight and indomitable spirit live on in her granddaughters.

On the Thursday following, it was my privilege to kick off the annual Welsh Affairs debate in the House of Commons. In my speech I paid homage to the generosity and vibrancy of Swansea East, celebrating pillars of our community like Valley Rocks Voices women's choir and Peace Mala.

I took that Welsh pride home with me that weekend as we launched this years Everyone Deserves An Easter campaign at Swansea Market, with the help of Mal Pope, the wonderful DVLA choir and the amazing Pentrehafod school choir. As always, those who came down, supported and donated have my unending gratitude. As part of my job I have had the privilege of travelling across the country and I can tell you that the kindness of the people of Swansea can hang with the best of them!

Finally, to be back in Llandudno for this year's Welsh Labour conference was so inspiring. To catch up with friends old and new, and to feel the buzz of excitement



A lovely selfie with Val Feld's granddaughters



Me and Mal Pope alongside the DVLA charity choir



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as comrades begin to believe that having a Welsh Labour Government in Wales and a Labour Government in Westminster is possible. Bring on the next General Election!

## The Menopause Mission in Westminster

March was a monumental month for my campaign to get better support, treatment and awareness of the menopause. It has also been a frustrating month that has seen two run ins with Ministers not doing their jobs!

The first clash came at the start of the month as Kemi Badenoch MP, the Minister for Women and Equalities, attended the Women and Equalities Select committee to discuss the committee's report into menopause and the workplace. The Minister showed her true colours and utter disdain at the idea of greater support for those women who may suffer terrible symptoms at work.

At the suggestion of the menopause being made a protected characteristic enshrined in law, the Minister suggested that such a request was no different from "short people" or "people with ginger hair" asking for similar treatment. When then asked why the Government had rejected the committee's recommendation of trialling menopause leave, the Minister suggested that there were "philosophical" differences, that I was "speaking from a left-wing perspective" and that the approach the committee was taking "is not one a centre-right Government would take". For obvious reasons, the Minister's offensive remarks caused outrage and videos online were seen millions of times, with thousands of women across the country aghast that this is the Minister responsible for 'Women and Equalities' !

The other own goal made by a Tory Minister responsible for oversight of the treatment of menopausal women was made only a few days ago. Maria Caulfield MP, Secretary of State for Women's Health Strategy, refused to attend the Women and Equalities Select Committee on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a significant breach of her responsibilities. This meant there was a chair to fill and the ladies from Menopause Mandate had to step up. Carol Vorderman, Mariella Frostrup, Kate Muir and Karen Arthur are experts on the menopause and prolific campaigners. They took the Minister and Government to task for the lip service they were paying to women's health and the 16 million menopausal women across the country.

I hope the Government were listening. When Carol Vorderman says your time is up, it is. She knows her way around a clock!



Me, Jo Stevens, Nick Smith, Stephen Kinnock, Gerald Jones, Chris Elmore and Geraint Davies



A snap taken during my speech at conference



The indomitable Kate Muir alongside the effortless Carol Vorderman and Karen Arthur