

March 8th 2017

Web links www.parliamentaryradio.com International Women's Day 2017

Lucy Allan MP #Budget2017 #IWD2017

Lucy Allan MP for Telford discusses International Women's Day 2017 and the help the Chancellor Philip Hammond is giving to women in his budget.

Lucy praised Hammond for announcing an additional £20 million for domestic violence support for women and £5 million to help women return to work and another £5 million to help celebrate the 2018 Great Reform Act that gave women the vote 100 years ago.

Lucy had made a speech in the Commons last week to celebrate #IWD2017 in which she spoke of gender based violence being used against women and girls, a theme May herself picked up on in her PMQs today when she pre-empted Hammond's announcement by setting out these measures herself, she even interrupted Hammond to tell him while he was delivering his speech that it was #IWD which allowed her to do so.

Lucy also spoke in her #IWD speech of how her great grandmother had been a suffragette and force fed and her work on the Women and Equalities Committee chaired by the able Maria Miller MP. She had also just taken part in a photo call with other women MPs and held up her 425 number, proud of the fact that there are now as many women ever elected to parliament as there are men sitting in the Commons today.

Lucy told Boni Sones, Executive Producer of www.parliamentaryradio.com that she thought Hammond had delivered a budget for women.

"It absolutely was a budget for women. I think Philip Hammond said that the Prime Minister had announced some of these points, that was interesting and she said it was International Women's Day and that was a warm touch between the two of them. We now have an important feel within government and to see that we have so many women represented and in the Cabinet and they are doing a great job, like Rudd and Greening, these are the most senior roles in government and to have that and a female Prime Minister it is fantastic news."

International Women's Day 2017

March 7th 2017

Fiona Mactaggart the Labour MP for Slough speaks out about how Daesh enslaves Yazidi Women

Fiona Mactaggart the Labour MP for Slough made a compelling speech in the House of Commons in the recent debate on Modern Day Slavery.

She told of how she had visited an exhibition by the Sikh Community in Slough who told her how when Daesh overran the Yazidi community, many women starved and expired of thirst after they were abandoned on a hill. Later the women were brought and sold like radios or books. They were raped, beaten, and forced to watch their children being raped, and their sons kidnapped and trained to be terrorist jihadi fighters. She also spoke of how Daesh issues rules about who they can rape and when. There are rules of only sleeping with one sister and not being able to rape the other until the

first is sold. Daesh also puts a price on how much women are worth, with younger women sold for a higher price than older ones.

In this podcast Boni Sones, executive producer of www.parliamentaryradio.com asked Fiona to explain why she thinks so called modern day slavery is really old slavery and takes us back to an age that many thought had been forgotten.

Fiona also explains why she believes, as a woman MPs who came into the Commons 20 years ago as part of the 1997 Labour landslide that the Chancellor Philip Hammond should in his budget this week be putting more money into the pockets of women to help alleviate child poverty.

Fiona key quotes slavery: “People don’t know about this industrial exploitation of women, about the way women have been turned into things who can be bought and sold and turned into sexual slaves for these terrorists.”

She continues: “I don’t regard what Isis is doing as modern slavery, I think this is the most old fashioned kind of slavery. It exists in some other countries, where people are bought and sold and their owners can use them for what they want. And their children are owned by the person who owns them too. We have in Britain modern slavery by people who won’t pay others to do work but this old fashioned chattel slavery exists elsewhere in the World such as in Mauritania and we need to be much more aware of it. And the rules of this violent type of exploitation reminds me of the holocaust. They remind me of how the Nazi’s issued rules around murdering people. What Daesh is doing is issuing rules around raping women.”

Fiona key quote the budget 2017: “We are now seeing a real uptake in child poverty and I believe that is because of women’s poverty. If you ensure, as the Labour government did, that benefits go to women, they will go to their children. But if you as this government is doing allow the universal benefit to go to men but say women can ask for it that will mean that children do not get the benefit, they do not get the new shoes, they don’t get the proper breakfast and that means men are spending it on themselves. That is why I feel very angry about this government which is led by a woman, it should understand women’s lives.”

End.