

David LAMMY MP

David Lammy is currently the Minister for Skills in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills with responsibility for the Commission for Employment and Skills, Leitch implementation, Train to Gain, Skills academies, Skills for Life and apprenticeships.

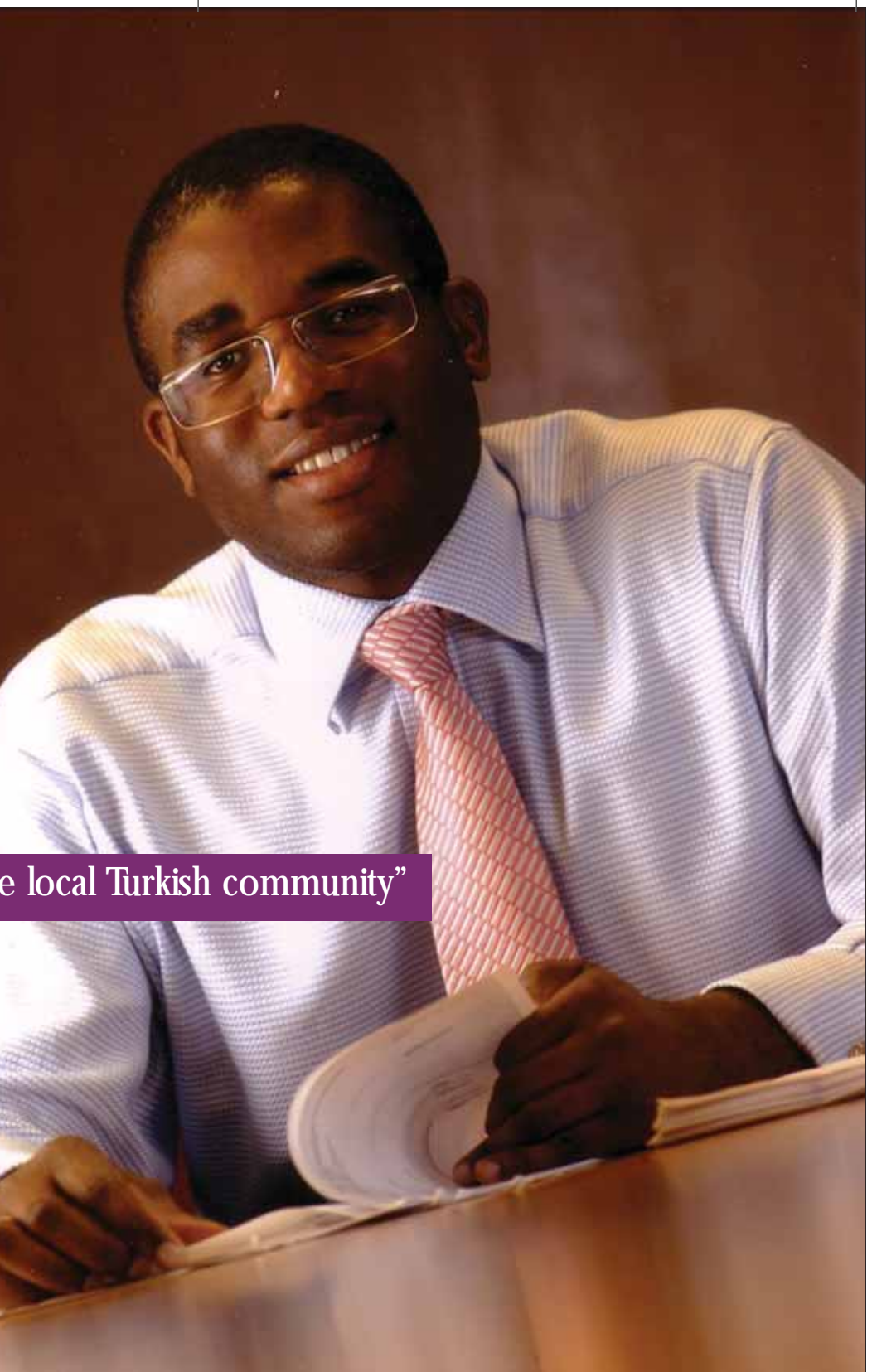
David Lammy was elected Member of Parliament for Tottenham at a by-election on 22nd June 2000. Following his re-election in 2001, David became the first Tottenham MP to hold a Government position since 1945.

He has served as a Minister in the Department of Health, the Department of Constitutional Affairs and the Minister for Culture in the Department for

“I’ve been working with the local Turkish community”

Culture, Media and Sport.

David was born in Tottenham on 19th July, 1972, one of five children raised by a single mother. At eleven years of age, David won a scholarship as a chorister to attend a state choral school at The Kings School in Peterborough. He came back to London in 1990 to study law at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Law School. Admitted to the Bar of England and Wales in 1994, David became the first Black Briton to study a Masters in Law at the Harvard Law School in 1997.



David returned to England and stood as a Labour candidate for the newly created Greater London Assembly, securing a position as the GLA member with a portfolio for Culture and Arts. Following the sad death of Tottenham's longstanding MP Bernie Grant, David was elected as Labour MP for Tottenham at the age of 27 in June 2000.

He was a trustee of the international development charity ActionAid between 2000 -2006, becoming an Honorary Ambassador at the end of 2006, and was formerly a director of the Church of England.

David's first governmental role was as

Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Education, Estelle Morris, just one year after his election. In that first year as a Member of Parliament, David visited every primary and secondary school in Tottenham, speaking to teachers, parents and pupils about the various challenges they face.

As Minister for Constitutional Affairs, David led the programme of reforming the legal service sector, following a report from Sir David Clementi, to ensure that when lawyers don't deliver quality services that they can be called to account, and to enable people to receive legal advice more easily and from more customer friendly suppliers. David also acted to

ensure that the family and not for profit advice sector funding was protected, whilst ensuring that tough measures were introduced to prevent the escalation of the criminal legal aid budget.

Appointed Under-Secretary of State for Health in 2002, David had ambitious plans. He successfully instituted a target mandating that 90% of all Accident & Emergency patients should be seen, treated and discharged within 4 hours. David established the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health, a body formed to investigate ways to make the NHS more responsive to the needs of citizens. He also introduced pilot areas to speed up diagnosis and treatment for individuals most at risk for contracting Diabetes, by launching the Diabetes NSF which has raised the quality of care for sufferers of the disease across Britain. David went on to increase funding for the Independent Complaints Support and Advocacy program, which provides patients with a statutory right to support when bringing forth problems about NHS experience.

David is especially concerned with the many issues particular to this environment. He has strongly campaigned to address the scourge of knife and gun crime across the country, including speaking at the launch of the Don't Trigger campaign at City Hall, London, in May 2005. David is a firm believer in the ability of education to change lives, and takes every possible opportunity to encourage young people, especially those underrepresented at many top universities, to achieve their academic potential. David has also called for greater support for supplementary schools and other community organisations, and continues to work alongside those in his own constituency.

One of David's lasting contributions will be his tackling of the subject of diversity in the legal profession, where he spoke openly about the inequality still faced by black and ethnic minority british children in trying to enter the City law firms. The subject was taken up by the legal journals and the City firms are now working openly to try to address the problem.

David tackled the difficult issues facing human rights in an era of global terrorism, where he spoke frequently about the importance of seeking a balance between the rights of individuals and the rights of wider society. David also ensured that human rights found a place in the forthcoming Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

"A significant percentage of my constituents in Tottenham are of Turkish heritage, and I'm glad to say that the community is represented in Haringey, at Cabinet level and in the post of Deputy Mayor. I've been working with the local Turkish community on wonderful projects, such as the Turkish Cypriot Women's Project in Harringay, and I was really pleased to have hosted the launch of Labour Friends of Turkey at Westminster in February this year. I am well aware that the Turkish business community makes an important contribution to the economic success we enjoy in Britain - I've witnessed first hand the vitality and entrepreneurial spirit the community brings to its business endeavours, and I know that is



replicated in various other parts of London and the country at large."

Mr. Lammy finished by saying that "Part of the role of Labour Friends of Turkey is to encourage the Party to foster stronger links between the UK and Turkey, including pushing at the European level for Turkey's membership of the EU. I think that there's going to be an important symbiotic relationship between Turkey and other member states: whilst Turkey can demonstrate some of the positive ways to reconcile Islamic culture with European lifestyle, accession for Turkey could provide an opportunity for the Turkish political world to enable greater transparency around some of the human rights questions that continue to be asked of it. I feel that pushing forward through progressive politics can only be positive, and whilst the progression may well throw up some difficult challenges, it gives the EU prospect of facing them head on."