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24 April 2010

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

With the election now just a week away I am writing to encourage you to join me in voting for Ed Fordham, the Liberal Democrat candidate for our constituency.

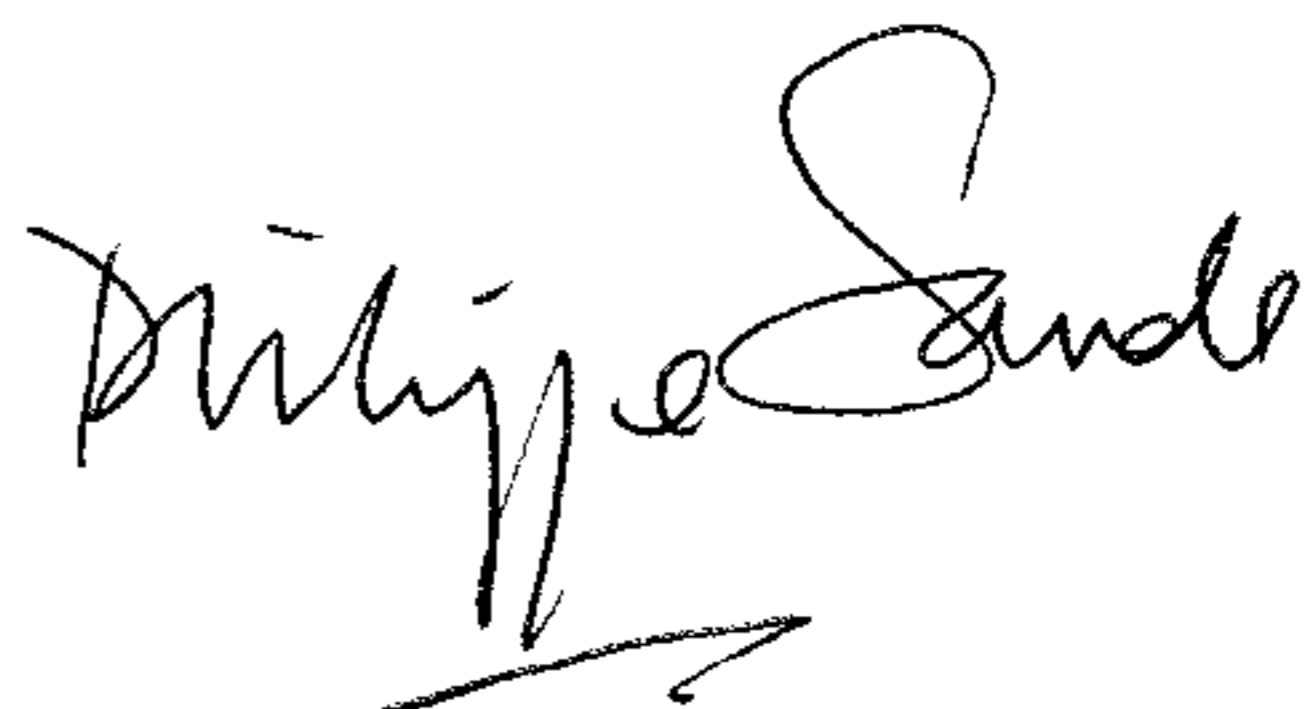
Over the past five years I have worked closely with Ed and have come to know him well, including in our capacity as fellow governors of a local school. He has shown himself to be a candidate of great integrity. He understands the issues facing local people in our community, and is passionate about the interests of the constituency. He is capable and enormously hard-working. He is committed to serving the interests of each and every constituent.

This general election provides a once-in-a-century moment to redefine British politics. I thought that moment might come in 1997, but like many people I got New Labour wrong. I left the Labour Party on 15 August 2001, before 9/11 and Iraq and torture and the other foreign policy disgraces that have degraded Britain's reputation around the world. My resignation letter - which I also sent to Glenda Jackson - deplored the failure of the Labour Government to be "bold, decisive and radical", the fact that Labour had become "too intimately connected with the interests of large corporations", and "the failure of the [Labour] Government to distance itself from some of the policies of the [Bush] administration".

Since then I have worked closely with Ming Campbell and now Nick Clegg on issues of foreign policy and the rule of law. Well before it was fashionable they have led the Liberal Democrats to do the right things on the issues of justice, human rights and international affairs that we should all care passionately about, adopting principled positions that have been shown to be right and consistent with this country's fundamental values. They are the only party to speak honestly and fairly about the country's economic predicament. They have the right policies on immigration, on fair taxes, on education, on Trident, on Britain's place in Europe and in the world.

This election provides each of us with a unique opportunity to redefine Britain. It is vital to vote, and to do so for real political and constitutional change. This is a constituency that the Liberal Democrats can and should win. I strongly support Ed's campaign, and invite you to contact me if you would like to get involved. I urge you to vote for him, and give Hampstead its first Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament on 6 May.

Professor Philippe Sands QC
University College London & Matrix Chambers
philippesands@me.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philippe Sands". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.