



Human Security Centre

## Advisory Board Member

**John Woodcock MP**



**John Woodcock** has been the Member of Parliament for Barrow and Furness in Cumbria (UK) since 2010, when he stood as a Labour Co-operative candidate.

After three years at Edinburgh University, John became a journalist at The Scotsman. He soon joined the Labour Party, where he started his political career as a research officer for the 2005 general election. Following the election, John was appointed Special Adviser to John Hutton MP who acted as Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (2005-07) and Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (2007-08) before being appointed Secretary of State for Defence. During this time, John's specialisms included the redesigning of the welfare-to-work programme, employment relations and defence exports.

In 2008, John Woodcock joined Downing Street and became political spokesman for the incumbent Prime Minister, Gordon Brown. He worked in the Prime Minister's Office until late-2009 when he left to become the Parliamentary candidate for Barrow and Furness. At the 2010 general election, John was elected the Labour and Co-operative Party Member of Parliament for Barrow and Furness with a majority of 5,208. Between October 2010 and January 2013, he acted as Shadow Minister for Transport; and since 2013, he has served as a Member of the Defence Select Committee and a Member of the Public Bill Committee for the Defence Reform Act 2014.

Between July 2011 and January 2013, John served as Chair of Labour Friends of Israel. Currently, he is Chair of the Labour campaigning organisation Progress, Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Friends of Syria and a Commissioner of the All-Party Parliamentary Commission on Physical Activity. He is also an active member of groups focusing on Kurdistan and Syria and has spoken out about the need for liberal intervention on numerous occasions in Parliament.