

Response to events in Catalonia – Thornberry

Emily

Thornberry MP, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, commenting on events in Catalonia today, said:

"Police

violence in Catalonia today is shocking, and the Spanish government should take

action to end it now.

"While

we believe disputes over sovereignty should be resolved in accordance with rules and laws, and any referendum on these issues needs to be both democratic

and fair, it is unacceptable for the Spanish authorities to overreact to today's events through aggressive police action and the forcible closure of polling stations.

"They

must respect the right to peaceful protest, and all sides must strive to come together and reach a political solution to this constitutional crisis.

Violence

of any sort will simply worsen divisions, and make a resolution harder to reach."