

Notes of Meeting of
Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Racial Equality
2013 Annual General Meeting
held on 28th November 2013

Present:

Hanzala Malik	MSP (Vice-Convener)
Jamie McGrigor	MSP (Vice-Convener)
Jatin Haria	CRER (Secretary)
Carol Young	CRER
Daniel Gunn	CRER
Harriette Campbell	ACWA
Eleanor McKnight	CEMVO Scotland
Bashir Malik	Edinburgh Interfaith Association
Nila Joshi	Edinburgh Interfaith Women's Group
Joseph McAleer	Glasgow Irish Heritage Group
Faten Hameed	Roshni
Lesley Irving	Scottish Government
Sandra Deslandes Clark	SEMPERscotland
Vicki Burns	Show Racism the Red Card Scotland
Naseem Anwar	University of Strathclyde
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Khalida Hussain	Voluntary Action Fund
Davidson Chademana	UCU / STUC Black Workers' Committee
Mohammad Razaq	WSREC
Lorraine Kennedy	Individual

Apologies:

Bob Doris	MSP
Jackie Baillie	MSP
Drew Smith	MSP
Jim Eadie	MSP
Patrick Harvie	MSP
Richard Simpson	MSP
Maria Throp	CSREC
Naeem Khalid	Frae Fife
Pat Elsmie	Migrant Rights Scotland
Zaffir Hakim	One Workplace, Equal Rights
Shaben Begum	SIAA
Meg de Amasi	Stirling Multicultural Partnership
James Ferns	University of Strathclyde Students' Association
Mahmud Al-Gailani	VoX
Mohammed Afzal Chaudhery	Individual
Audrey Coltart	Individual

Welcome

Hanzala Malik MSP, Vice-Convener (Chair) welcomed everyone to the fifth Annual General Meeting of the CPG on Racial Equality in Scotland, and conveyed apologies from Convener Bob Doris MSP who was unable to attend.

Annual General Meeting

Hanzala Malik MSP confirmed that existing office holders are content to continue in their positions, and asked for any additional nominations. No further nominations were submitted. Office holders were agreed as:

Bob Doris MSP – Convener

Hanzala Malik MSP – Vice-Convener

Jamie McGrigor MSP – Vice-Convener

Jatin Haria, CRER – Secretary

A draft copy of the Annual Return was provided to attendees in advance. Members confirmed that the draft return was accurate. A finalised copy (adding office holders) will be distributed to members in due course.

Change to Agenda

Hanzala Malik MSP conveyed apologies from Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport (with ministerial responsibility for equality), who was scheduled to deliver a presentation on equality and the independence white paper to the meeting but had been unable to attend. Lesley Irving of the Scottish Government Equality Unit attended in her place so that members could receive an update on the topic if desired. Hanzala Malik MSP asked members to agree whether the agenda item should go forward with Lesley Irving providing the input, or be postponed until the next meeting (18th February 2014) in order for the Minister to deliver it in person. Members agreed to postpone. The Minister had already informally offered to attend the next meeting, and a formal request for her to present will be made in due course.

Legislative programme updates

Members were invited to present any brief updates on the Legislative Programme. Mohammed Razaq suggested that members may wish to respond to the current Community Empowerment Bill consultation, which Hanzala Malik MSP noted is due to close in January. Carol Young provided some

information about the consultation. There was some discussion as to the merit of holding an information sharing event to support non-Parliamentary members in submitting responses to the consultation. An outline of the consultation and details of the closing date will be circulated, along with a call for expressions of interest in attending an event.

Jamie McGrigor MSP left the meeting, which proceeded thereafter on an informal basis.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2013 were confirmed as accurate. A short update on matters arising was provided by Jatin Haria, with a written version being appended to the minutes. Eleanor McKnight requested clarification as to whether a reference to 'National Health Service Boards' was intended to refer to all NHS Boards or only National NHS Boards. The former was assumed to be the case, however this will be confirmed at a later date.

Other Business

Hanzala Malik MSP invited members to raise any other business. Harriette Campbell provided a short update on the African and Caribbean Women's Association Sickle Cell Anaemia project. She will provide a written report for members when available. To support the project's aim of ensuring an appropriate level of Government action and support on this issue, it was informally agreed that the CPG will share the report with the Minister for Health and ask for a response (pending official agreement from Parliamentary members).

Questions and discussion on a number of items out with the scope of the CPG followed.

Issues around political representation at CPG meetings were discussed, and the need for parliamentary members to attend on a regular basis in order for the Group to operate as intended (the voluntary nature of CPG attendance was noted).

Rohini Sharma Joshi provided an update on a network for minority ethnic women which has been in development for some time and is now ready to launch. She will forward information for circulation to members.

Actions

- Formal request to be made for Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport to attend the meeting scheduled for 18th February 2014
- Finalised Annual Return to be submitted and a copy circulated to members
- Information to be circulated regarding the Community Empowerment Bill consultation and network for minority ethnic women
- Report of ACWA Sickle Cell Anaemia report to be shared with Minister for Health and a response requested (action pending official agreement from Parliamentary members)

Dates of Future Meetings

Meeting dates for 2014 are:

Tuesday 18th February, Committee Room 4

Wednesday 25th June, Committee Room 5

AGM: Wednesday November 19th, room to be confirmed

Each meeting will be held at 6pm; non-Parliamentary members should arrive at least 15 minutes before for security purposes.