

## **Cross Party Group (CPG) on Malawi**

Wednesday 7th September

17.30 – 20.00

Scottish Parliament

Committee Room 5

### **MINUTES**

**Co-Conveners: Liam McArthur MSP and Alexander Stewart MSP**

#### **Attendees**

1. Alasdair Allan MSP (Minister for ID and Europe)
2. Kenneth Gibson MSP
3. Clare Haughey MSP
4. Ruth Maguire MSP
5. Liam McArthur MSP (Co-Convenor)
6. Elaine Smith MSP
7. Alexander Stewart MSP (Co-Convenor)
8. Annie Wells MSP
9. Katie Allan - EMMS International
10. Anthony Andrew
11. Janey Andrews – University of Strathclyde
12. Jim Atken
13. Enock Bamusi – Association of Malawians in Scotland (AMS)
14. Caroline Bec – Global Concerns Trust
15. Charlie Bevan – Scotland Malawi Partnership
16. Sandra Black – EMMS International
17. Keith Bohannon – Scotland Malawi Partnership
18. Anna Boni – Education Scotland
19. Gary Brough – EMMS International
20. Stuart Brown – GALVmed
21. Colin Cameron – SMP Member
22. Kathryn Chipperfield – Scotland Malawi Partnership
23. Douglas Clarke – EMMS International
24. Daniel Cosgrove – UNICEF
25. Hatty Cumber
26. Moira Dunworth – Mamie Martin Fund
27. Jackie Farr – Scotland Malawi Partnership
28. Brian Ferguson – Turing Trust
29. Carol Finlay – Church of Scotland
30. Claire Footit – Footit by Design
31. Jane Forster
32. Lore Gallastegi – Open University Scotland
33. Bob Garrow – R.S. Garrow Ltd.
34. Maureen Gowans
35. Nigel Harper – Leprosy at Utale Village
36. Eileen Henderson – The Global Concerns Trust
37. Lucy Hensher
38. David Hope-Jones – Scotland Malawi Partnership
39. Paul Johnson – Tear Fund
40. Webster Kameme- St Andrews University
41. Andy Kerr – Sense Scotland
42. Brian Kerr – Soko Fund
43. David Knox
44. Crispin Longden
45. Hazel MacIver – Tear Fund
46. Mitchell Manson
47. Grace Manyika – Malawian Diaspora/ SMP Board
48. Angus McLeod
49. Emily Mnyayi – Scotland Malawi Partnership
50. Alison O’Connell – CBM UK
51. Siobhan O’Connor- Edinburgh Napier University
52. Joyce Phiri – Malawian Diaspora
53. Cathy Ratcliffe – EMMS International
54. Cat Rawlinson-Watkins – EMMS International
55. Lucinda Rivers – UNICEF
56. Francesca Roberts – Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh
57. Mary Robertson – EMMS International
58. Denis Robson
59. Samantha Ross- Link Community Development
60. Alison Steele – EMMS International
61. Louise Stuart – EMMS International
62. Peter West – Hon Consul Malawi
63. Amy Westerndarp
64. Ben Wilson – University of Glasgow
65. Adah Younger

## Apologies

1. Tom Arthur- MSP
2. Jeremy Balfour – MSP
3. Alex Cole-Hamilton – MSP
4. Heather Cubie – SMP Board Member
5. Roseanna Cunningham – MSP
6. Annabelle Ewing – MSP
7. Maurice Golden – MSP
8. Derek Macleod- University of Edinburgh
9. Ben Macpherson – MSP
10. Stuart McMillan - MSP
11. Ruth Miliken – Dunelm Energy
12. Ken Ross- SMP Board Chair
13. Douglas Ross – MSP
14. Michael Russell – MSP
15. Kevin Simpson – Malawi Fruits
16. Liz Smith – MSP
17. David Stevenson – SMP member
18. Kevin Stewart – MSP
19. Adam Tomkins – MSP
20. James Wells – EMMS International

### 1. Welcome and introductions

The CPG on Malawi Co-Convener Liam McArthur MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented on the great turnout, one of best attendances he has ever seen at a CPG.

A number of apologies were noting (see list above) including Michael Russell MSP, who unfortunately can no longer stand as Co-Convener for the group due to his new role with the Scottish Cabinet.

Minutes were approved from the previous CPG meeting in March, proposed by Liam McArthur, seconded by Moira Dunworth.

### 2. Launch of “Scotland and Malawi: One thousand partnerships” CPG report mapping Malawi links against every Scottish Constituency.

David Hope-Jones from the Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP) spoke briefly on the launch of a new report celebrating 1,000 Scotland Malawi Partnership members!  
([www.tinyurl.com/HolyroodMalawi](http://www.tinyurl.com/HolyroodMalawi))

The report illustrates how there are SMP members are spread across every single constituency in the Scottish Parliament. Each of the four opposition leaders –Ruth Davidson (Cons), Kezia Dugdale (Lab), Willie Rennie (Lib Dems) and Patrick Harvie (Greens)- joined Scotland’s International Development Minister, Dr Alasdair Allan, to launch the report at the Scottish Parliament just before the CPG meeting.

### 3. Malawi Cross Party Group – process of re-registering

In line with the parliamentary guidelines each CPG must apply to be re-registered following the sitting of a new parliament. It was agreed that there was much interest to continue with the CPG on Malawi with the purpose: “To develop and enhance links between Scotland and Malawi and to provide a forum for discussion on these matters.”

Liam McArthur MSP (Lib Dems) and Alexander Stewart MSP (Cons) were duly elected as Co-Conveners for the group (proposed by Peter West and seconded by Joyce Phiri).

Elaine Smith MSP (Lab), Christina McKelvie MSP (SNP), Patrick Harvie MSP (Greens) were duly elected as Co-Vice-Conveners (proposed by Andy Kerr and seconded by Lucinda Rivers).

David Hope-Jones (ex officio, Scotland Malawi Partnership) was duly re-elected as secretary for the group (proposed by Liam McArthur MSP and seconded by Elaine Smith MSP).

#### **4. Update from the new Scottish Government Minister for International Development and Europe.**

Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for International Development and Europe, gave a short briefing including:

- Dr Allan is looking forward to following on from the work of his predecessor, Humza Yousaf MSP, in continuing the strong friendship between Scotland and Malawi in “another chapter of the ongoing links” going back over 150 years.
- As part of this commitment to Malawi Dr Allan has planned his first visit to Malawi, in October 2016 where he looks forward to meeting what he has been told are “the friendliest people on earth”. While there Dr Allan will visit some of the 20 projects that are currently being funded by the Scottish Government (SG) in the areas of Health, Education, Civic Governance and Sustainable Economic Development.
- Dr Allan spoke about how SG is supporting efforts to address the Food Security Crisis in Malawi by providing matched funding to EMMS, Oxfam, Christian Aid and SCIAF, to support their relief efforts and by providing additional support to Mary’s Meals.
- Dr Allan welcomed the launch of the “comprehensive report” on ‘One Thousand Partnerships’, a testament to the SMP’s work over the last decade in building links with Malawi across the length and breadth of Scotland.
- The Scottish Government Consultation on International Development is still ongoing but Dr Allan was keen to reiterate that the ongoing commitment to Malawi was something which would only be strengthened going forward.
- Finally, Dr Allan congratulated EMMS on their 175<sup>th</sup> birthday.

There was a Q&A session where the following points were raised:

- Andy Kerr asked when the next call for the Malawi Development Programme would be launched?
  - *Dr Allan confirmed there were plans for a 2017 call.*
- Nigel Harper asked if there were any plans to offer more support for smaller charities in Scotland?
  - *Dr Allan confirmed that the Small Grants Programme, with the Lloyds TSB Foundation, would run in 2016-17.*
- Pat Coirrigan raised the importance of transparency and accountability when working in Malawi.
  - *Dr Allan and Ian Nichol replied that transparency was a key requirement for all SG funded project.*
- Colin Cameron commented on the high costs of administration for large NGOs and urged them to look for ways to reduce this, especially when working on Food Security / Emergency Response interventions.
- Joyce Phiri asked what was being done to address issues of access to drugs and vital medicine in Malawi, which is still a big issue as she knows from personal experience.

- *This is not an area where the Scottish Government are directly engaged but David Hope-Jones took the action to contact DFID, who are involved in this area from a UK aid perspective, and to get an update from them.*
- Janey Andrews and Samantha Ross both raised the point of the importance of continuing for support primary education in Malawi, in particular highlighting the shortage of qualified teachers in this area.

## **5. Briefing from EMMS International as it celebrates 175 years.**

Cathy Ratcliff, Director of International Programmes at EMMS, gave a short presentation on the work of the organisation from its origins right up to its work today (see presentation for details). Key points highlighted were:

- Founded in 1841, the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (EMMS) is the earliest example of medical mission in the western hemisphere.
- Despite being a local Edinburgh-based charity, with a worldwide reach from the beginning.
- Today EMMS works in Malawi, India, Nepal & Edinburgh to the same founding Christian values: Faithful, Empowering, Encouraging and Accountable.
- In the 21<sup>st</sup> century their focus is on the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular:
  - Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
  - Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- In 2016 EMMS have a number of projects ongoing in Malawi:
  - METHOD (Malawian Education & Training for HIV & Other Diseases)– funded by DFID
  - ISABEL (Improved Services for AIDS & Basic healthcare through Empowerment & Local democracy)– funded by European Commission
  - FOOD CRISIS – funded by Scottish Government
  - SPONSORING NURSE-MIDWIFE STUDENTS – established with Scottish Government funding, continued with EMMS funds
  - SOLAR POWER – funded by EMMS

## **6. Any other business (AOB)**

Following this meeting the CPG on Malawi will be formally re-registered at the Scottish Parliament.

The date of next meeting is Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 18.00-20:00 at Committee Room 5.