



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of the Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group meeting held on Wednesday 29 October at 12.30pm

Present:

- Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer (Chair)
- Ruth Maguire MSP, Scottish National Party
- Carol Mochan MSP, Scottish Labour Party
- Sue Webber MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Beatrice Wishart MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Professor Sarah Childs, Personal Chair of Politics and Gender, University of Edinburgh
- Professor Meryl Kenny, Professor of Gender and Politics, University of Edinburgh
- Femi Otitoju, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant
- Hannah Johnson, Gender Audit Adviser to the Welsh Parliament

Apologies:

- Maggie Chapman MSP, Scottish Green Party

In attendance:

- Allan Campbell, Head of Operations, Chief Executive Group

Officials supporting the Advisory Group and officials from the Office of the Presiding Officer also attended.

Item 1: Minute of previous meeting and matters arising

1.1 The Group agreed the minute of the meeting on 17 September 2025.

Item 2: Update on progress on recommendations

2.1 The Group discussed the updates presented in the paper.

- **Recommendation 8:** The Group welcomed an update on the progress of ongoing work around the production of a video package to highlight different jobs within the Parliament.
- **Recommendation 21:** The Group noted this recommendation was being considered by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments (SPPA) Committee.
- **Recommendation 28:** Allan Campbell provided an update on the Election Programme Team's recent meeting with Elect Her.
- **Recommendations 32 and 34:** The Group received a brief update on the recommendations and noted that a more detailed update would be circulated by correspondence.

Action: GSPAG Secretariat

- The Group noted that work was underway to embed the Gender Sensitive Audit (GSA) recommendations into a cyclical approach and that visuals would be brought back to the Group for consideration.

Action: Allan Campbell, Prof. Childs, Prof. Kenny

Item 3: Strengthening Committees' Effectiveness Report

- 3.1 The Group discussed the SPPA Committee's recent report on strengthening committees' effectiveness.
- 3.2 The Group agreed to write to the SPPA Committee with its reflections on the report, in advance of the debate on the Committee's report, in relation to the GSA recommendations.

Action: GSPAG Secretariat

Item 4: Update on Recommendation 13

- 4.1 The Group received an update on the progress of ongoing work around GSA recommendation 13 and agreed that data on questions, debates and statements would be collated and published by SPICe.
- 4.2 The Group received an update regarding intervention data and agreed that this should be gathered again in Session 7. The group requested officials to liaise further with colleagues in the relevant business areas, and report back to the Group for consideration.

Action: GSPAG Secretariat

Item 5: Any other business

- 5.1 The Group welcomed positive feedback from Advisory Group members and officials in relation to the Young Women and Democracy Summit held in Parliament on 19 September 2025.
- 5.2 The Group noted that the next Women's Caucus event was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 5 November 2025.
- 5.3 The Advisory Group's next meeting is due to be held on **Wednesday 17 December 2025**.

Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group Secretariat
October 2025