

Cross-Party Group on LGBTI+

16 March 2026, 12:30-13:45

Meeting held online via Zoom

Minute

Present

MSPs

Jamie Greene MSP, Scottish Conservative Party

Maggie Chapman MSP, Scottish Green Party

Non-MSP Group Members

Erin Lux, Equality Network
Christopher Clannachan, Equality Network
Rebecca Hoffman, LGBT Health & Wellbeing
Carrie Bates
Cal Barnett
Dagny Gasking
Heidi Vistisen, LEAP Sports
Hugh Torrance, LEAP Sports
Ian Rivers
James Banner-Ball
Kate Samuels, LGBT Youth Scotland
Kimberley Gillanders
Lorraine Glass
Mark Kelvin, LGBT Health & Wellbeing
Paul Daly
Ruth Ann McCalla
Tristan Grayford
OutBritain
Matt Dabrowski

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies:

Patrick Harvie MSP, Karen Adam MSP, Jordan Daly (TIE), Liam Stevenson (TIE), Iain Campbell, Kim Stokes

A warm welcome from Jamie Greene MSP to all. There were several apologies as above.

2. 2026 Election: What do you want to see in the next parliament?

Christopher Clannachan presented about the LGBTQIA+ sector manifesto put together by EN, ST, LGBTYS, LGBTH&W, and LEAP Sports

Explained sector is releasing it later to get more attention closer to the election, and that the sector has been doing manifesto engagement with many parties

Contains a range of asks, most of which are non-legislative but some legislative asks

Included a section at the start about leadership, not only directed at political parties but directly to MSPs about the importance of showing each other courtesy, dignity, and respect, and also when speaking to and about the community.

When manifesto is launched it will be sent to the CPG mailing list

Kate Samuels from LGBT Youth Scotland spoke specifically about the launch of children and young people's manifesto which has been released. It covers various themes but one theme that comes through is that young people feel their

rights have been regressed since the last election. Nearly 50% felt their right to healthcare was not upheld.

Engaged with young people all over Scotland and various Commissions in Scotland. Young people really pushed for progress on a Human Rights Bill, safeguarding against hate and for young people's voices to be heard when protesting peacefully.

Jamie Greene MSP mentioned how leadership section is necessary in current climate and something that was not needed before.

Maggie Chapman MSP shared Jamie's concerns and noted there is work on parliament to prepare for next intake. Suggested LGBT sector potentially doing capacity building with new MSPs to avoid debate regressing and asked Christopher and Kate if they are progressing those conversations.

Jamie Greene MSP mentioned the idea of a pledge, almost a 'good behaviour promise'. Jamie mentioned worth having a strategy on how to approach next parliament.

Kate Samuels said that outgoing MSPs should platform young people's experiences and use their words/lived experience when advocating for them.

3. LGBTI+ CPG in the next parliament

A member asked for next parliament to consider the LGBTQIA+ community is intersectional, not one homogenous group. They would like to start by showing backbone against various lobby groups who threaten legal action. They would like Scottish Parliament to set an example here.

Jamie Greene MSP mentioned about the role of the Presiding Officer can be influential.

Tristan Grayford from End Conversion Therapy Scotland campaign advised they intend to call on all candidates to back a conversion practices ban in the first year of the next parliament, and we can use that initial communication with candidates as a platform to continue engagement with those elected in May.

ECT Scotland are extremely concerned over the use of denial of healthcare as a form of institutionalised conversion practices in England - which is also a live threat to trans people in Scotland. That will be part of our communication with candidates and will be a focus of our continued engagement with them.

Jamie Greene MSP mentioned that support for a bill will be needed. A mapping exercise and where people sit on conversion practices.

Heidi Vistisen mentioned that the LGBT sector had various conversations around on a pledge but the fact we did it in the past and are still having these conversations shows there is a reason we didn't do a pledge because it didn't work.

Tristan Grayford mentioned they are similarly disappointed and frustrated the conversion practices bill wasn't brought forward. It is clear that the UK Government does not intend to bring a trans inclusive bill - their own approach to trans people through assaults on their healthcare makes this obvious.

End Conversion Therapy Scotland emailed Scottish ministers last week about this to make our expectations clear given that waiting for the UK Government is no longer excusable. We're yet to receive a response but will share it if we do.

Erin Lux mentioned it would be good to know people's priorities for the next CPG. She will send round a survey. Erin also mentioned the CPG rules and asked if all parties need to be represented for a CPG to exist.

Maggie Chapman MSP mentioned that she will check this but thinks that it is all parties minus one. She will flag and get back to Erin with clarity on how this will function from May.

Erin Lux asked how we engage more MSPs in the CPG.

Jamie Greene MSP said some MSPs went on to become Ministers which made it harder. Jamie noted gratitude for Karen Adam's participation. He noted that CPGs on the whole are struggling for MSP attendance.

Jamie Greene MSP mentioned useful to engage with MSPs on a 1-2-1 basis and encourage membership of the CPG.

Maggie Chapman MSP mentioned that she thinks parliament will understand reputational issues if CPGs cannot continue due to MSP membership. Possibility to approach Presiding Officer as well for influence.

Maggie Chapman MSP mentioned the importance of the CPG to MSPs for dialogue and communication that otherwise may not be there.

Jamie Greene MSP mentioned benefit of in person meetings.

Rebecca Hoffman mentioned we need to consider accessibility for trans and non-binary members. SPCB bathroom policy makes equitable access for all in parliament impossible.

4. Requests to Join This CPG

Erin Lux mentioned request from UN House Scotland to join the CPG.

Jamie Greene MSP mentioned that seems sensible.

Maggie Chapman MSP mentioned this group will cease to exist so worth checking out how we can be reconstituted.

Erin Lux advised she will double check.

5. Updates to other matters/AOB

A member mentioned they want to flag an issue that is outstanding for the future is the issue around statutory declarations and gender recognition certificates.

Maggie Chapman MSP thanked Jamie Greene MSP for being co-convenor and for all members.

Jamie Greene MSP thanked all MSP members over the years and all members.