

## **CROSS PARTY GROUP: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGM**

**19 JUNE 2012**

**COMMITTEE ROOM 5, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**

**5.30PM – 7PM**

**Attendees:** Sarah Boyack MSP, Patrick Harvie MSP, Laura McCall, Susan McIntosh, Naomi Blight, Linda Todd, Terver Anyor, Karen Garrott, Manuela Coletti, Sharon Pearson, Pat Hiddleston, Rachel Campbell, Otis Orteseh, Alan Dixon, John Blair-Fish, Fiona MacLeod, Declan Murphy, Elizabeth Proudfoot, Janet Chesney, David Stevenson, Agnes Ngulube-Holmes, Anthony Olowoyeye, Gillian Wilson, Philippa Bonella, Anne Kane, Andrew Mount, Gordon MacPherson, Michael Freudenberg, Fiona Trafton

**Apologies:** Siobhan McMahon MSP, Jamie McGrigor MSP, Richard Simpson MSP, Aileen McLeod MSP, Graham Ault, Damien Frame, J.K. Robert England, Paul Jowitt, Kevin Simpson, Deirdre Muldowney.

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Sarah opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Sarah proceeded to send her best wishes to Marlene Galashan, who was unable to attend as the Guest Speaker due to a recent accident. The Group joined Sarah in acknowledging Marlene's long standing commitment to education projects in Malawi and wish her well for her recovery. Sarah thanked Susan McIntosh (Scot Dec) and Anne Kane (Oxfam) for agreeing to give a talk on Global Learning and Global Education at short notice.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Sarah noted that due to a lack of a Secretariat and the changeover in office bearers at the AGM there were no formal minutes to approve, although notes were taken of people's suggestions for meetings which formed the basis of the year's meetings and an attendance list was taken.

### **Subscriptions**

Siobhan McMahon MSP provided an expenditure report ahead of the meeting reflecting that the bank balance for the group is high and only a small amount of money has been spent in the past year on catering, mainly tea/coffee. Sarah advised that she did not consider it necessary to start subscriptions for joining the group and this view was shared amongst members at the meeting. Sarah finalised the point by stating that this would be reviewed again.

### **Election of Office Bearers**

Patrick Harvie nominated Sarah Boyack MSP as convenor and this was seconded by member David Stevenson (University of Edinburgh) and elected unopposed. Sarah Boyack MSP nominated Patrick Harvie MSP as Vice Convenor and this was seconded by member Alan Dixon (the Salvation Army) and elected unopposed. Sarah Boyack MSP nominated Siobhan McMahon MSP as Treasurer and this was seconded by Patrick Harvie MSP and elected unopposed.

Sarah highlighted that the position of Secretariat is vacant and offered members the opportunity to consider this. It was highlighted that a Secretariat would help with the organisation of the group and for its smooth operation.

### **Proposals for Future Meetings**

Sarah advised that a number of requests have been sent to her for suggestions and thank everyone who had got in touch with ideas. The following events are open for consideration:

- Event with Mary Robinson (in conjunction with Stop Climate Chaos) in November;
- Global Campaign for Education (presentation by a Young Ambassador, High School Student, Hutchison's Grammar School, Glasgow)
- Thai/Burma (talk by Burmese Trade Unionists)
- Work of Scottish Government with Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop MSP as a guest speaker (October/November)
- Jubilee Scotland - Debt Tribunal
- SCIAF Visitors from Colombia

Group agreement to work date with Fiona Hyslop MSP around her diary and suggestions for the event to be focused and have set questions in advance. Also might be an idea to invite members of the Scottish Youth Parliament to the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary.

Mr John Blair-Fish suggested having an event to mark Rio+20 Summit and inviting Stewart Stevenson MSP. Broad agreement for this but based on committed schedule it might prove to be difficult to include on future agenda.

### **Global Learning and Education**

Susan McIntosh (Co-Ordinator for Scot Dec) addressed the group and provided a thorough background into the work of Scot Dec. Highlighted that an integral aspect of their work is encouraging a stronger influence on international issues into the Scottish curriculum; raising awareness of global issues and challenging students to engage more and ask the 'why' questions. The central aim of Scot Dec are to move from people feeling sympathy to the empathy and advised that this is how global citizenship is evolving.

Susan showed the group drawings that primary school children had made indicating their perception of Malawi. It was noted by the group that many of the images were negative and this highlights stereotypical views. Ann Kane advised that a number of qualified teachers lack in confidence on these issues and this led to a discussion that attitudes need to change. Global education/learning cuts across a variety of curricular subjects and schools should encourage children to be aware of the importance of these issues into adulthood. Sarah raised the point that schools with strong links to African schools tend to have a Head Teacher or Depute Head Teacher who is strongly committed and informed about international development.

### **AOB**

Sarah closed the meeting and announced that the date of the next meeting is the **18<sup>th</sup> September 2012**; Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament and the topic for the meeting is an address from survivors of the Bhopal gas disaster. Sarah announced that she would speak with both the Vice-Convenor and Treasurer to discuss the proposed agenda for future meetings and to draft a programme on the basis of the suggestions made by members of the group.