

**Cross Party Working Group on Men's Violence
Against Women & Children
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20th March 2013
Scottish Parliament**

Present/Apologies:

Present:

Malcolm Chisholm MSP (Chairing)
Nadine Jassat (SWA, Minutes)
Lily Greenan (SWA)
Kayleigh Thorpe (Amina MWRC)
Dominic Hinde (Scottish Young Greens)
Christina McKelvie MSP
Rhoda Grant MSP
Claudia Beamish MSP
Jenny Kemp (Zero Tolerance)
Maureen Wylie (Improvement Service)
Kim Smith (YWCA Scotland)
Isy Hart (Student)
Graham Goulden (VRU)
Pam McKinnon
Joan Skinner
Graeme Richards (Circle Scotland)
Christine Ratcliffe (University of Edinburgh)

Apologies:

Ann Hayne NHS Lanarkshire, GBV Manager
Drew Smith MSP
Louise Johnson (SWA)
May Chamberlain (Relationships Scotland)
Women's Support Project
Nancy Lombard (Glasgow Caledonian University)
Yvonne Scott (Domestic Abuse Task Force, Strathclyde Police)
White Ribbon Scotland
Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre (FRASAC)
Anne Meikle (Stirling Council)
Alison Johnstone MSP
Jamie McGrigor MSP
Kathy Norrie (Open Secret)
Johann Lamont MSP
Megan Bastick (WILPF)

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Action:
<p>The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3. Cross Party Activities 2012 – Report from the Conveners	Action:
Action: Malcolm to circulate short written report by the end of March.	MC MSP
4. Election of Office Bearers	Action:
<p>The current joint convenors Malcolm Chisholm MSP and Christina McKelvie MSP are re-elected. Vice convenors Claudia Beamish MSP and Jamie McGrigor MSP are re-elected. No alternative candidates are raised. Nadine Jassat (Scottish Women’s Aid) is elected as Secretary.</p> <p>Rhoda Grant left the meeting at this point.</p>	
5. Amina Muslim Women’s Resource Centre’s ‘You Can Change This’ Campaign (Kayleigh Thorpe, Amina MWRC)	Action:
<p>Kayleigh Thorpe (VAW Development Officer, Amina MWRC) presents on Amina’s ‘You Can Change This’ Campaign (http://www.changethis.org.uk/). Kayleigh introduces the group to Amina’s work, and the identification by Amina of a need for a campaign targeted at the Muslim community and addressing the issue of Domestic Abuse. Kayleigh describes the campaigns aims of breaking the silence around abuse, engaging</p>	

<p>the community to call for change, and disproving stereotypes surrounding Islam. The campaign was launched in February 2013, and has engaged over 5,000 people so far. The campaign has received Scottish Government funding for 2 years, with a view to national expansion within this time. Kayleigh shows one of the two short films produced by Amina for this campaign. The second film, which was not shown, focuses on the theme of change. The film shown focuses on the theme of creating role models, and features well known male members of the Scottish Muslim community speaking out about VAW.</p> <p>The film is well received by the CPG will comments in praise of its simplicity, clarity and power. The films will be put online in due course, however in the meantime delegates are welcome to contact Kayleigh if they would like to use the films.</p> <p>ACTION: When the films become available on social media, Kayleigh will alert the CPG via secretary NJ. <i>Update 22/03/2013:</i> The videos will be available to view from Monday 25th on the campaign website http://www.changethis.org.uk/#/change-maker-news/4573957469 and the YouCanChangeThis YouTube Channel http://www.youtube.com/user/YouCanChangeThis</p>	<p>KT/NJ</p>
<p>6. Report from the Commission on the Status of Women (Lily Greenan, Scottish Women's Aid)</p>	<p>Action:</p>
<p>LG was invited to speak at CSW57, and presents on her experience at CSW57 – two weeks annually which focus on women's equality. The Commission is made up of 45 UN member states. The CSW's results are influential in driving high level gender policy. For the 1st time in ten years, VAW has been a priority theme for the CSW. The last CSW to focus on VAW did not reach agreed conclusions; nor did last year's CSW. It was positive therefore that conclusions were agreed this year. Audio boos from the CSW are available here: http://audioboo.fm/users/1118145/boos. Action: Lily will create podcasts of her interviews with delegates at CSW to be circulated.</p> <p>Lily provides background on CEDAW, and notes that the event she spoke at raised the question of whether there should be specific UN convention on eliminating violence against women and girls.</p> <p>Lily discusses the agreed conclusions and presents segments from the 5th and final version of these. Action: LG will circulate final version of agreed conclusions.</p> <p>Lily details some of the contentious issues met at CSW57. These included the use of the term 'girl child'; sexual health and reproductive rights; sovereign rights VS human rights; early marriage; the terminology of 'intimate partner violence' and LGBT inclusion.</p> <p>Lily reflects on her learnings from the CSW, including her desire to explore access to civil remedies and legal aid (LG refers to the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2011 which included reference to removing means testing when Rhoda Grant introduced it as a Private Members Bill). She expresses disappointment that pornography and prostitution weren't addressed in the agreed conclusions as forms of VAW. Lily details that there was for the first time a stress on financial and economical gender equality in relation to VAW, as was the abuse of power by</p>	<p>LG</p> <p>LG</p>

men in positions of authority or trust. Ultimately, Lily was assured of Scotland's progressive stance in relation to VAW, and identifies that Scotland's next targets in this area need to be to explore the implications for engagement in international human rights, and to learn more from other states on sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Lily thanks the Scottish Government for their additional funding which allowed her to attend.

Claudia Beamish and Christina McKelvie left the meeting at this point.

Questions:

Malcolm Chisholm asks for clarification of the relationship between CEDAW and the new convention proposed on VAW.

LG: the new convention would be as well as CEDAW, but would be a specific convention to address VAW.

Jenny Kemp asks why prostitution wasn't agreed upon as a form of VAW?

LG: Lily identifies that some countries were economically linked to sex tourism. There was also pro-prostitution lobbying present. Different countries agreed on different understandings of the terms 'forced prostitution' and 'prostitution', the latter being viewed as acceptable by some.

Malcolm Chisholm asked who the debaters were.

LG: The debaters were made up of representatives of member states and government. NGOs, Churches and Trade Unions all had a significant presence, and influence governmental decision makers. There were some NGO delegates for country representatives, however there was no official NGO rep on the UK consultation alliance.

Graham Goulden asks if there was any coverage on engaging with men.

LG: There was a specific point in the agreed conclusions on engaging with men. This experienced some contention.

Jenny Kemp asked if the UK delegation will present to UK ministers and then relay this to the devolved administration.

LG: Yes. LG will do a breakfast briefing on the CSW57 on Monday 25th of March at 9.30am at Scottish Women's Aid's offices in Rose Street. **Action:** NJ to circulate invite to CPG. *Update 21/03/2013:* invite circulated.

Malcolm Chisholm asks what the main conclusions are requiring action by Scotland.

LG: Legal aid and civil remedies. Access to legal remedies in civil courts for women experiencing domestic abuse. Scotland could also improve in the area of prevention work, but overall Scotland is reflected really well and is already addressing a lot of key issues.

Christine Ratcliffe asks how structural causes will be addressed.

LG: Through a focus on health, education and justice, as well as how to engage with gender. More of this can be found in CEDAW.

Dominic Hinde asks if there was any discussion on what states should be bound to do on cultural change as opposed to legislative change.

LG: The debates at CSW often talked about culture as a process of 'othering'. This is used as code for judgment on others and faith, and lacks a recognition of Western cultural practice. However, the expert group reports address this (one on prevention in particular is available

<p>online here http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2013/4</p> <p>Malcolm Chisholm asks how common an understanding of the underlying causes of VAW is in other UN countries?</p> <p>LG: depends upon the strength of women’s movement in any country. Without a strong autonomous women’s movement it is difficult to achieve an understanding of the root causes of VAW at a government level. Countries that recognise the value of equality are often those with strong women’s movements. Lily reflects on the history of the women’s movement in Scotland, and their relationship with the Scottish Parliament.</p> <p>Lily suggests that members of the CPG may wish to respond to the Scottish Human Rights Commission consultation on developing a national action plan for Human Rights in Scotland – responses are due in by 29th March. Action: LG will circulate the SWA response to the CPG.</p>	LG
7. AOCB	Action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jenny Kemp (Zero Tolerance). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ZT’s Early Years guide is to be published on Gender Stereotypes. Action: Jenny will bring copies to the next CPG. b. Maureen Wylie (Improvement Service) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maureen adds the CPG on Prostitution and Human Trafficking as an Agenda item for the next CPGMVAWC. c. Kim Smith (YWCA Scotland) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - YWCA Scotland are planning to arrange a seminar with Youth Work Managers on VAW, Gender Stereotyping, and Human Trafficking. d. Graham Goulden (VRU) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Graham alerts the CPG with a date for their diaries: 22nd of August, Jean Kilbourne, an expert on the media’s portrayal of alcohol, will be speaking. e. Lily Greenan (SWA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visiting Professor David Gadd will be presenting at the next CPGMVAWC. - If you would like to be on the mailing list for information on the CSW please email lily.greenan@scottishwomensaid.org.uk. f. Dates for future CPG meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 15th May 2013, 5.30pm to 7pm 	JK