

Draft Minute of the meeting of the
Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children
6 February 2019, 17.30 – 19.00, Scottish Parliament, Room TG.20/21

1. Present/Apologies

Present

CPG Members

- Claudia Beamish MSP (CB)
- John Finnie MSP (JF)
- Rhoda Grant MSP (RG)
- Rona Mackay MSP (RMk) – chair
- Ania Kinross – Scottish Women's Aid (AK)
- Erin Mwebo – YWCA Scotland (EM)
- Katie Brown – COSLA (KB)
- Lily Greenan – Zero Tolerance (LG)
- Marsha Scott – Scottish Women's Aid (MS)
- Sarah Weldon – Forensic Services, Glasgow (SW)

Apologies

- Amy Johnson – Zero Tolerance
- Ann Hayne – NHS Lanarkshire, EVA Services
- Catriona Kirkpatrick – Engender
- Davy Thompson – White Ribbon Scotland
- Emma Ritch – Engender
- Katherine Gilmour - Church of Scotland
- Kelly Johnson - Individual
- Kelsey Smith – Close the Gap
- Linda Rodgers – Edinburgh Women's Aid
- Paula Mitchell – Individual
- Rachel Adamson – Zero Tolerance
- Shuwanna Aaron – NUS Scotland
- Tammy Connell – Individual

2. Discussion: thematic sessions for 2019

The members discussed various aspects of VAWG for consideration as topics for the remaining 2019 sessions. The suggested topics included:

- a. The Equally Safe strategy and its various work streams
- b. Trafficking & child sexual exploitation
- c. Poverty and VAWG (e.g. social security policy)
- d. Legal services across VAWG
- e. FGM – incl. prevention and spiritual abuse

- f. Rural areas – challenges faced by services providers, examples of good/innovative practice etc.
- g. Women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) status & destitution of women and children
- h. Housing and homelessness – incl. current Homelessness Strategy and issues regarding pets
- i. Legal services – what's working well and what isn't
- j. New Domestic Abuse Bill implementation – it's impact on local authorities, relevant training for agencies, tracking the first court case prosecuted under the new law
- k. Brexit – incl. settled status and its impact on women

RG suggested joint meetings with other relevant CPG's, e.g. on [Human Trafficking](#), [Children and Young People](#) and [Women's Justice](#).

The overall themes emerging from the discussions were (in no particular order):

- Children and Young People
- VAWG policy and services in rural areas
- FGM
- Poverty and homelessness of women and children and VAWG, including NRPF
- Legal Services
- Equally Safe update

CB and MS suggested inviting relevant ministers or Cabinet Secretaries, incl. Childcare and Early Years, Older People and Equalities, and Justice.

MS suggested adding the implementation of the DA Bill as a standing agenda item, rather than a theme itself.

The theme of Brexit will be kept on stand-by, as still no clarity around exact dates and final arrangements.

Action: MS to identify relevant speakers for the themes and identify possible dates for joint CPG meetings.

3. Cross-Party Group business

A. Approval of previous minutes: minutes of CPG December 5th 2018 were approved.

B. Matters arising from minutes:

- a. MS passed on thanks to the members from the international group of visitors, attending the December meeting.

- b. Follow up meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills regarding the final 5 recommendations, as agreed by the CPG members.

Action: CB to arrange the meeting

- c. JF commended the work of White Ribbon Scotland and their current campaign involving Association of British Bookmakers.

C. Members' updates:

- a. SWA: upcoming annual conference; Safe and Together Consortium event earlier in February, so the final proposal will be published soon; ongoing MARAC consultation with 20 local Women's Aid organisations.
- b. RMk: Stalking Protection Order Bill proposal, incl. women being able to apply directly to courts. RMk is working together with Action Against Stalking and is hoping for a cross-party support for the Bill.
- c. JF: Equal Protection Bill consultation is ongoing, JF will be giving evidence to the Parliament in March.
- d. Zero Tolerance: continuous promotion of the Gender Equality Toolkit for Early Years; journalist-exclusive seminar on improving reporting of VAWG; extensive program of events to celebrate International Women's Day, with specific focus on reaching out to BME women.
- e. SW: meeting with the Caledonian Project, following previous session on working with men.

D. Confirmation/Approval of new members: new members have been unanimously approved:

- a. Amina - the Muslim Women's Resource Centre, represented by Ghizala Avan, Programmes Manager
- b. Christine Gray (Individual) – social worker, previously representative to the CPG on behalf of RASAC Perth & Kinross, currently a researcher at Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection (University of Stirling)

E. AOCB

- a. Meeting dates for 2019:
 - June 5th
 - September 18th (AGM)
 - December 4th

4. Date and time of the next meetings

- April 3rd 5.30-7pm [Meeting cancelled to avoid clash with other meetings, next meeting 5 June, 5:30 pm]