

The Scottish Parliament
Cross Party Group on Palestine

8 February 2017

Minutes

MSPs Present: Claudia Beamish, Sandra White, Ross Greer, Pauline McNeil, John Finnie
MSP apologies: Anas Sarwar, Ivan McKee

29 Members of the public present

1. Vice Convener Sandra White opened the meeting noting apologies and asked for the discussion on anti-Semitism to be moved to another meeting. This was agreed to. The group agreed that the secretariat of the group would be taken forward by Christopher White.
2. Jim Malone presented the documentary 'Firefighters Under Occupation' which was filmed in Palestine and Israel in October/November of 2015. The documentary explored the difficulties faced by firefighters in Palestine and assessed the needs of the firefighters and the results of training initiatives the FBU have facilitated in Scotland.

In question and answers Jim noted that more equipment was awaiting delivery; however was being delayed by the need for a license, the cost of which was prohibitive.

In response one member of the CPG indicated they would cover the cost of the necessary license.

3. There was a presentation on the 'Balfour Declaration' noting that 2017 marks the centenary of the declaration and that to accompany this there will be a wide campaign to highlight the role played by the declaration in the displacement of the Palestinian peoples and the ensuing injustices.

It was agreed that the CPG establish a subgroup to coordinate actions in the lead up to the anniversary and that this subgroup report back to the CPG at the next meeting.

4. AOCB It was agreed to note that Colin Cooper would be making his presentation at the next meeting. It was also agreed that the CPG would meet more regularly in the future.

The next meeting of the CPG will take place on the 25th of April at 6pm.