

The Scottish Parliament
Cross Party Group on Palestine
25 April 2017
Minutes

MSPs Present: Claudia Beamish, Sandra White, James Dornan, Ivan McKee, Pauline McNeill, John Finnie, Bill Bowman.

26 Members of the public present.

1. Vice Convener Sandra White opened the meeting
2. There was a presentation and discussion on the issue of palliative care in Gaza.

It was noted that the current state of public health was in a very perilous state due to past military operations such as operation cast lead and that this had led to a mental health crisis with figures suggesting that a large majority of the population were suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders. It was further noted that these issues and other mental health issues were having a devastating effect on children and young people with the incidences of suicide having increased dramatically.

The state of palliative care was exacerbated by the lack of proper pain relief and equipment to treat those suffering from life ending illnesses. There was also a lack of training for nurses and that work and cooperation between Scotland and Gaza was ongoing to offering assistance to overcome these problems.

3. There was a discussion on the proposed presentation regarding the definition of anti-Semitism and it was agreed to postpone the presentation to a future date.
4. AOCB It was noted that the Scottish Government had agreed that the Balfour Declaration become a curriculum item in schools in Scotland and that resources had been made available to teachers; however, it appeared that these had been subsequently removed without explanation. MSPs were asked by the group to seek an explanation for this change from the Cabinet Secretary for Education.

The next meeting of the CPG will take place on the 20th of June 2017.