

**The Scottish Parliament
Cross Party Group on Palestine**

20 June 2017

Minutes

MSPs Present: Sandra White, Claudia Beamish, Ross Greer, John Finnie, Ivan McKee and Andy Wightman

MSP apologies: James Dornan and Pauline McNeill

MSP staff: Amanda Gordon (SW) and Peter McDade (PMcN)

MP Staff: R Currie

17 CPG members present: P Bryden, A Gordon, D Beamish, F Thomas, H George, J McDougall, A Sardesai, W Shawish, K Bett, J Pullman, A Jalden, A Dean, I Nitzan, C Wigglesworth, W Malik, M Spooner and R Spooner

1. AGM

- Election of Co-Conveners – Sandra White MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP and Ross Greer MSP nominated and elected as Co-Conveners
- Election of Secretary – Amanda Gordon nominated and elected as Secretary
- Election of Treasurer – Phil Chetwynd nominated and elected as Treasurer

2. Minutes of meeting

- I McK reported on item 2 from minutes he is waiting for further information regarding the request for motion regarding palliative care in Gaza.
- Discussion on item 3 from minutes and when this would be raised again at a meeting of the CPG, SW explained CPG members had indicated that the Balfour Centenary was pressing and should be a priority for discussion. Further discussion on what the SG are currently doing with definitions JF lodged parliamentary questions and awaiting responses. CB suggested Conveners should seek information from the SG. SW commented on the aims of the group.
- Discussion on educational resource, SW has written to Cabinet Secretary and awaits reply, RG agreed to take this issue forward with the SG.

3. Balfour

- SW has booked CR2 for 1 November 2017 at 6pm and has also requested a members' debate on this date to coincide with event. SW opened the discussion seeking ideas on event. RS spoke of what Balfour Project are planning across the country. There was a discussion on the Balfour Treaty and its impact. Discussion on setting up a sub group to take this forward and agreed that KB would lead this group and feed back to Conveners and CPG members. CB suggested booking an exhibition space in Parliament

however these are now fully booked for the year. JP suggested a sub group for education issue and RG agreed to lead this whilst AD suggested a sub group on hate crime which JF will lead and I McK requested WS to circulate links to the definition and examples he made reference to, JP also to circulate link to IHRH film.

4. AOCB

- AW raised issue of festival taking place in Drummond Community High School in Edinburgh, FT suggested representations be made to City of Edinburgh Council. Discussion of festival ensued. WS and SW raised concerns regarding the Treasurers report and the need for far more detail, PC to be made aware. KB suggested future meeting to include film on child prisoners.

5. The next meeting of the CPG will take place on Wednesday 27 September 2017 at 6pm.