

Cross Party Group on Men's Violence against Women and Children

14th June 2023, 18.00-19.30 via Zoom

Minute

1 Present

MSPs

Rona Mackay (RMack), MSP
Beatrice Wishart (BW), MSP
Audrey Nicoll (AN), MSP
Jim Fairlie (JF), MSP

Invited guests

Anne Robertson Brown (ARB), Angus Women's Aid

Non-MSP Group Members

Hannah Brisbane (HB), Engender
Eilidh Dickson (ED), Policy & International Officer, Scottish Human Rights Commission
Ann Fehilly (AF), ASSIST
Nicola Gilbert (NG), Scottish Women's Aid
Angela Graham (AG), Central Advocacy Partners Falkirk
Vikki Kerr (VK), City of Edinburgh Council, Community Justice, Safer Families
Carlene McAvoy (CMcA), Individual
Melanie McCarry (MMcC), Individual
Gill McKinna (GMcK), Community Justice Scotland
Laura Nacyte (LN), Women's Support Project
Marsha Scott (MS), Scottish Women's Aid
Ffyona Taylor (FT), Scottish Women's Aid
Dianne Thom (DT), Caledonian System
Linda Thompson (LTh), Women's Support Project
Laura Tomson (LTo), Zero Tolerance
Richard Whitecross (RW), Individual
Teah Zdanowicz (TZ), UN House Scotland
Catriona Scott (CS), RASAC Perth & Kinross

Apologies

Rhoda Grant, MSP
Collette Wormleighton
Kelsey Smith
Lily Greenhan
Ann Hayne
Pam Hunter
Sarah McMillan
Liz Gilchrist
Ann Hayne
Linda Rodgers
Kelsey Smith
Jenny Wartnaby

2 Cross Party Group Business

A. Approval of 8th February 2023 Meeting Minute

The minutes of the CPGMVAWC meeting on 8th February 2023 were approved as an accurate record – proposed by LTh and seconded by MS.

B. New Member Applications

- Amber Cully, GMAP
- Alice Jackson, Individual

Amber Cully and Alice Jackson were both welcomed as new members of the Cross Party Group on Men's Violence against Women and Children.

3 Theme: The Istanbul Treaty

A. Eilidh Dickson, Policy & International Officer, Scottish Human Rights Commission delivered a presentation entitled 'Implementing the Istanbul Convention'.

B. Discussion of possible follow-up Actions

There was a discussion about any benefits or drawbacks in incorporating the Istanbul Treaty into Scottish Law, including

looking to examples of other countries where that approach had been taken.

MS stressed the importance of looking at provisions for children in the Istanbul Treaty.

MS spoke about a consolidated report being compiled by Scottish Women's Aid, and encouraged members of the Group to contact Scottish Women's Aid.

MS also spoke of a meeting to consider the UK report that is due to be published by the end of June. A meeting to consider the report is likely to take place in late August.

The possibility of asking a representative from the Violence against Women and Girls Team to speak at a meeting of the CPGMVAWC was suggested.

AN highlighted an upcoming call for views on the Victims, Witnesses and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill.

4. Member Updates

- Member Spotlight – Zero Tolerance
 - The Member Spotlight was postponed, but will take place at a future meeting of the Group.
 - LTo, however drew attention to the Zero Tolerance annual Media Awards for reporting Violence against Women and Girls, which are now open for submissions.
- Women's Support Project
 - LTh updated the Group on CSE development work that was taking place, to events held by the Women's Support Project and to the development of new resources.
 - LTh also spoke about an application for funding work across a number of European countries to develop standards for exiting.

- Scottish Women's Aid
 - MS mentioned work being carried out on consultation responses.
 - FT highlighted a briefing SWA were preparing for MSPs, ahead of the debate on Thursday 22nd.
 - FT confirmed that the briefing could be circulated to members of the CPGMVAWC.
 - MS highlighted key areas to be considered, including the information available to victims, supervision orders, and the lack of information in the Bill.

- City of Edinburgh Council, Community Justice, Safer Families
 - VK spoke about the opening of the Justice Women's Centre in Edinburgh and also about training to support greater safety to women.

5. Date and Time of next Meeting

- The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

- The topic will be the Independent Strategic Review of Funding and Commissioning for Violence against Women and Girls Services and the speaker will be Lesley Irving.