

APPG for International Freedom of Religion or Belief

AGM

Tuesday 18th July 2017

Call to order:

AGM of the All Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief was called at 15:30 on 09/06/2016 and held in Wilson Room, Portcullis House at 13:30 on 18/07/17.

Attendees:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Baroness Berridge | 15. Derek Thomas MP |
| 2. Jim Shannon MP | 16. Joan Ryan MP, |
| 3. Gavin Shuker MP | 17. Gavin Robinson MP |
| 4. Lord Singh | 18. Siobhain McDonagh MP |
| 5. Chris Matheson MP | 19. Lord Curry |
| 6. Jeremy Lefroy MP | 20. Emma Pengelly MP |
| 7. Julian Lewis MP | 21. Representative of Geoffrey Cox
MP |
| 8. Lord Suri | 22. Representative of Fiona Bruce
MP |
| 9. John Spellar MP | 23. Katharine Thane |
| 10. Valerie Vaz MP | 24. Amro Hussain |
| 11. Patricia Gibson MP | 25. Lesley Perry |
| 12. Rachael Maskell MP | |
| 13. Paul Girvan MP | |
| 14. Bishop of Peterborough | |

Apologies:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Baroness Cox | 13. Mark Pritchard MP |
| 2. Bishop of Coventry | 14. Sharon Hodgson MP |
| 3. Brendan O'Hara MP | 15. Kerry McCarthy MP |
| 4. George Howarth MP | 16. David Amess MP |
| 5. Stephen Lloyd MP | 17. Stephen Doughty MP |
| 6. Fiona Bruce MP | 18. Nigel Evans MP |
| 7. John Grogan MP | 19. Richard Graham MP |
| 8. Antoinette Sandbach MP | 20. Andrew Roisindell MP |
| 9. Layla Moran MP | 21. Dr. Rupa Huq MP |
| 10. Dr. David Drew MP | 22. Ian Blackford MP |
| 11. Chris Bryant MP | 23. Catherine West MP |
| 12. Lord Alton | 24. Dame Caroline Spelman MP |

25. Stephen Pound MP
26. Fabian Hamilton MP
27. Chris Green MP
28. Peter Grant MP

29. Michael Tomlinson MP
30. Wes Streeting MP
31. Sir Peter Bottomley MP

Election of Officers:

Motion: To elect as officers:

- Jim Shannon MP (Chair)
- Baroness Berridge (Co-Chair)
- Gavin Shuker MP (Co-Chair)
- Baroness Cox (Vice-Chair)
- Lord Singh (Vice-Chair)
- George Howarth MP (Secretary)
- Jeremy Lefroy MP (Treasurer)
- Brendan O'Hara MP (Secretary)
- Christian Matheson MP (Secretary)
- Stephen Lloyd MP (Secretary)

(Proposed by Valeria Vaz MP, seconded by Bishop of Peterborough)

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Transfer of assets and liabilities:

Motion: To transfer assets and liabilities to the new group (relevant papers available at www.appgfreedomofreligionorbelief.org)

(Proposed by Lord Suri, seconded by the Bishop of Peterborough)

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Approval of Previous Decisions of the APPG (Sept. 2015- March 2017)

Motions of APPG meetings in:

1. September 2015
2. November 2015
3. May 2016
4. July 2016
5. November 2016
6. March 2017

(Proposed by Christian Matheson MP, seconded by Lord Singh)

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Approval of New Motions:

Motions:

1. To reappoint Lee Scott, Addo Accounting as our Accountant.

(Proposed by Paul Girvan MP, seconded by Julian Lewis MP)

Vote: Unanimous approval.

2. To reinstate Co-op Bank as the Banking Group of the APPG and pass all the associated resolutions as per the "Section 2: Declaration" document attached.

(Proposed by Julian Lewis MP, seconded by Chris Matheson MP)

Vote: Unanimous approval.

3. To allow signatories to the account to continue with all the powers outlined in the "Section 2: Declaration" document attached.

(Proposed by the Bishop of Peterborough, seconded by Derek Thomas MP)

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Note of Thanks

Thank Katharine Thane, Amro Hussain and Lesley Perry for their work for the group.

Update on Work of the Group

Highlighted previous group successes. Key achievement: The expansion of the UK Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) to include non-Syrian nationals thereby opening the programme up to vulnerable religious minorities from Iraq.

Discussed upcoming group work. Key items: The writing of the update to the Group's previous report on Freedom of Religion or Belief, "Article 18: An Orphaned Right" and the launch event for the report on Oct 25.

Requests to members

- To ask their colleagues to join as members of the APPG
- To provide feedback and thoughts on the previous and planned work of the APPG
- To utilize APPG staff for support with relevant work and to let staff know if they are interested in participating in events.

- To sign a letter of thanks to the Home Secretary for expanding the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

Final Thanks from Chair and close of meeting

Minutes signed by Chair:

Jim Shannon MP

Jim Shannon MP

Date: 20/07/17