

APPG for International Freedom of Religion or Belief

Tuesday 08 September 2015

Call to order

A meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief was called at 4pm on 08/09/2015 and held in the TV Interview Room, House of Lords.

Attendees

Jim Shannon MP

Jeremy Lefroy MP

Baroness Berridge

Baroness Sherlock

Bishop of Peterborough, Donald Allister

Katharine Thane

Gary Streeter MP

Gurinder Jhans

Approval of minutes

Motion: To approve minutes of Annual General Meeting on Monday 8th June 2015 (Proposed by Baroness Berridge, seconded by Baroness Sherlock).

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Business

1) Katharine and Gurinder were introduced and welcomed as new staff members of the APPG.

2) The Group agreed to re-appoint Co-Op as bankers for the APPG.

3) Motion: Removal of Angie Bray as signatory on the bank account and appointment of Jim Shannon MP and Katharine Thane as signatories of account. (Proposed by Gary Streeter MP, seconded by Bishop of Peterborough).

Vote: Unanimous Approval.

4) Motion: Baroness Berridge and Jim Shannon MP to be formally reimbursed for hotel rooms and Baroness Berridge's flight for IPP Conference in New York. (Proposed by Bishop of Peterborough, seconded by Gary Streeter MP).

Vote: Unanimous Approval.

5) Motion: Delegation of executive function of officers to Jim Shannon and Baroness Berridge with monthly reporting to the officers as a group. (Proposed by Bishop of Peterborough, seconded by Gary Streeter MP).

Vote: Unanimous Approval.

6) Discussion of possible creation of Charitable Company:

- Creation of charitable company must be separate from APPG – would require an additional function/purpose e.g. advancement of understanding of FoRB among young people.
- Charitable company cannot mirror work of APPG.
- Group agreed that Baroness Berridge and Jim Shannon MP would meet with Luke Fletcher to seek legal advice and consult registrar regarding creation of charitable company.

7) Katharine discussed priorities and strategy for the APPG:

- First emphasizing the new staff's openness to meet with and listen to APPG members so as to develop a one year strategy for the APPG in the coming weeks.
- Noting current reactive work, including the response to the case of Pakistani Christian asylum seekers.
- To increase number of Labour and SNP MPs involved with APPG.
- Plans for stakeholder engagement.
- Gave an overview of potential reports and events to be launched e.g. Report regarding Asylum seekers and FoRB written by Ziya.

Chair

Date of approval