



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 09/06/2017 and held in Wilson Room, Portcullis House at 13:30 on 18/07/17.

Attendees:

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

Apologies:

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

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Approval of Previous Decisions of the APPG:

Motions:

1. To delegate authority to Jim Shannon (Chair) and Baroness Berridge (Co-Chair) to sign off any necessary APPG press releases and public statements (to put on the website and distributed to networks) that will represent the APPG officers’ views.
2. To establish a charitable vehicle in conjunction with the APPG and subsequently to appoint Bates, Wells and Braithwaite as solicitors.
3. To TUPE of APPG staff to charity when established and that Lord Farmer’s donations of years 2 and 3, which are specifically for the Operations Director’s should be received by Charity when it is set up.
4. To reaffirm the name of the Charity’s website and creative work (once it had been agreed by the Charities Commission):
“Freedom Declared Foundation” (FDF) to be name of charity.
5. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the APPG for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and Freedom Declared Foundation will be agreed. The charity would raise an invoice to the APPG for staff costs.
6. The current APPG website will be renamed to ‘APPGFreedomofReligionorbelief.’ with the shorthand APPG FORB for emails etc.

7. Phil Grundy (web-designer) is to be allowed to use the creative design for advertising purposes of his business. The APPG received gift of creative intellectual property from Phil Grundy, with thanks.

(Proposed by Christian Matheson, 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, seconded by Julian Lewis)

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, seconded by Chris Matheson)

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 Bishop of Peterborough, seconded by Derek Thomas)

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. Also working with the Department for

International Development to improve FoRB literacy.

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 such as the upcoming policy roundtable in Italy with on Eastern Europe and the Caucuses.
- To sign a letter of thanks to the Home Secretary for expanding the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

Final Thanks from Chair