

APPG for Freedom of Religion or Belief

Annual General Meeting – Monday, 8 June 2015

Attendance:

Baroness Berridge (Co-Chair)	Lord Elton
Lord Alton	Lord Hylton
Lord Anderson	Jeremy Lefroy MP
David Burrowes MP	Andrew Stephenson MP
Baroness Cox	Baroness Uddin
Mark Durkan MP	Eilidh Whiteford MP
Lord Green	
Jenny Leigh – on behalf of Bishop of St Albans	

* NB at least one representative of both Houses was present throughout the entire meeting

Business:

1) Thanks were expressed for previous serving officers

2) Changes to the rules for APPG meetings were noted

3) New officers were elected:

Chair	Jim Shannon MP
Co-chair	Baroness Berridge
Vice-chair	Lord Alton
	Lord Singh
	Baroness Cox
Secretary	Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP
	George Howarth MP
Treasurer	Jeremy Lefroy MP

4) Increased representation of issues relating to freedom of religion or belief in both Houses of Parliament was noted.

5) The programme for the APPG's Welcome Event on June 17th was discussed.

6) A statement of the APPG's accounts was provided and plans to employ staff members to co-ordinate the group's activities were approved by the meeting.

7) The Group agreed to set up an incorporated vehicle for the APPG's funds, subject to legal advice.

8) The Group agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding would be signed with Interserve, a stakeholder.

9) Baroness Berridge briefed the Group on the establishment of an International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief and requested recommendations of prospective international legislators to join the panel.

10) Suggestions for future research and publications were discussed:

- Sudan, particularly regarding the case of Miriam Ebrahim
- Updating the APPG's publication 'Article 18' in early 2016 and translating the Executive Summary into Arabic, Spanish, French, Farsi and Russian
- Report marking 50 years since the ending of Vatican II on Christian views of persecution