

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Bangladesh

Date Group Established (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

12/01/2022

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

27/11/2024

Date Annual Return Submitted

20/12/2024

Date of Preceding AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

19/12/2023

Group Meetings and Activities

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

CPG Meeting on 19th June 2024:

In Attendance:

MSPs:

Foysof Choudhury MSP (Chair)

Miles Briggs MSP

Non-MSP Members:

HE Saida Muna Tasneem, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the UK

Mohammad Hazrat Ali Khan, Deputy High Commissioner

Tanvir Mohammad Azim, Commercial Counsellor

Wing Commander Md Saifur Rahman, Assistant Defence Adviser

Moumita Zeenat, Counsellor (Political)

Juned Hussain Chowdhury

Md Mosheer Rahman

Ibrahim Rashid - University of Stirling, UK and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University(BSMRAU), Bangladesh.

Robiul Islam

Ehtesham Hasnain - Bangladesh Association Glasgow

Farhana Kabir - HFRP

Aladin Ali

Nazia Sharmin - BRAC International

Abu Saleh Md Masum

Abu Meron - EBS Community News

Md Mokaddes Hossain

Md. Nayem Dewan

Kohinur Sultana Chowdhury

Alexander Dindial - University of Stirling

M. Mozammel Huq - Charity Education International (CEI). Also Bangladesh Association Glasgow

Md Abaidur Rahman

Khaled Choudhury

Kabir Uddin Ahmed - University of Stirling

CLlr Nurul Hoque Ali - Aberdeen City Council

Dr Shaif Uddin - University of the West of Scotland and The Bangla Centre SCIO

Ahmed Ali (Jubu)

Muhammad bodrul husain - Bangladeshi students association of Scotland

Invited Guests:

Md. Suleman Khan

Syed Shamsul Islam

Shahnoor Chowdhury

Autaur Rahman

Ala Uddin

Jahed Ahmed

Mustafizun Rahman

Irina Lazarenko

M. Mozammel Huq

Md Noor Alam

Shabrum Khili

Farhane Kabir

Md, Mahbubul Kabir
And other Individual Members of the Scotland's Bangladeshi Community

Apologies:

Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
Sarah Boyack MSP
Cllr Nurul Ali

Members of Public Approx No: 45

Agenda item 1:

- Approval last meetings minutes
- Welcome and Introduction of CPG Members and Bangladesh High Commission Officers
- Following CPG trip to Dhaka in November, CPG Members of delegation noted need to bridge gap to create educational opportunities and research collaboration between Scotland and Bangladesh particularly in fields of agriculture, fishing and climate action.

Agenda item 2:

- Update from CPG Convenors
- Reiterated their commitment to the Bangladeshi community of Scotland.
- a) Defence Cooperation**
 - CPG discussed exciting proposal to showcase for the first time Bangladesh Military Band and their unique skills. Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo to send their proposals.
 - Noted on practicalities and, hoping to facilitate this great opportunity for Bangladeshi military band.
- b) Educational cooperation; Bangladesh - Scottish Universities**
 - Discussed one of the priorities and agreed on importance of generating shared links between education institutions in Bangladesh and Scotland.

Agenda item 3: Cooperation between Bangladesh and Scotland

- **Speaker 1: Update from H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem, Bangladesh High Commissioner (BHC) to the UK & Ireland, London**

Provided Update on:

Recent cyclone; Cultural cooperation; Bilateral relations – Aviation partnerships; further dialogues with UK - institutional framework via economic cooperation; trade investment and defence; Education: Need for more students from Bangladesh to study in Scottish Universities and more opportunities for young women; Rohingya Case; Bangladesh leadership in climate justice and need for more investments from Scottish companies to come to Bangladesh.

Speaker 3: Update from Peter Brown, Director, British Council Scotland

- Provided update from British Council in Scotland and from colleagues in Dhaka.
- Focus Areas: Arts & culture, education, and English language.
- Partnerships: British Council supports initiatives like Going Global Partnerships, Transnational Education, and gender equity in higher education.

- Scholarship Opportunities: includes Commonwealth Scholarships, Great Scholarships, and Chevening Scholarships for Bangladeshi students.
- Vocational Education: Focus on Technical and Vocational Education and Training partnerships and grants
- Future Actions: British Council will support further dialogues on education and cultural exchange between Bangladesh and Scotland.

Agenda item 4:

Speaker 4: Presentation from Ibrahim Rashid, PhD Fellow, Assistant Professor, Stirling University, UK

Agenda item 5:

Concluding with Open discussion

CPG Meeting & AGM on 27th November 2024:

Attendance: Foysol Choudhury MSP, Evelyn Tweed MSP

Non-MSP Members

Bangladeshi Students association of Scotland
 Bangladesh Catering Association Scotland
 ELREC
 Nazmul Ahsan
 Ziauddin k Siddique - Scottish Bangladeshi Welfare Association
 Nurul Hoque Ali - Aberdeen City Council
 Farhana Murshida Kabi- HERP
 Dr Shaif Uddin Ahammed - University of the West of Scotland and The Bangla Centre SCIO
 Cllr Abdul Jabbar - Oldham Council Deputy Leader
 Shahnour Chowdhury
 Rashpal Nottay - NHS Lothian
 Taleb uddin
 Johura Ahmed
 Abu Meron – Community Councillor for Liberton & District Committee Council
 Md Shohidul Islam
 Laila Israt Jahan - Laila Jahan Fashion House
 Farhan Masud Khan
 Abul Hasnat
 Dr Wali Tasar Uddin - Europe Bangladesh Federation of Commerce & Industry
 Ibrahim Rashid - University of Stirling
 Bodrul husain Bangladesh Students Association of Scotland
 Mahjabeen Khaled - Musharrof Trust
 Shaha Haque - Hut bazar
 Syed Shamsul Islam
 Abdul Rahim - Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh
 Jamal Khan - Study Circle London
 MD Shaoon Khan - Mark International USA LLC.
 Salauddin Chowdhury
 Muhammad Azizul Islam - University of Aberdeen

Shamima Haque - School of Business, University of Dundee
Ehtesham Hasnain - Bangladesh Association Glasgow
Matin Khan
Abul kalam
Dr Abdul Kadir - Bangladesh Medical Association UK
Abdul Motlib Chowdhury - EBFCI
Craig McIver - EBFCI
Badrul Hussain
Mohammad Zahid
Khaled Miah
Md Shohidul Islam
Nasima Akther
Sharin Mohammad
Din Mohammad
Md Abdul Motin - JMN Scotland Ltd
Ashik Miah - JMN Scotland Ltd

And others members of Bangladeshi Community

Invited Guests:

Ross Gilligan Sightsavers
Ayon Debnath Sightsavers
Saleemul Huq International Centre for Climate Change & Development, Dhaka

Members of Public: Approx 45

Apologies:

Sarah Boyack MSP
Miles Briggs MSP
Lord Provost of Edinburgh City

Welcome & Introductions

Agenda item 1: AGM

- ❖ Approval of Minutes from AGM 2023
- ❖ Election of Office Bearers (Convener, Vice Convener):

Agenda item 2:

- ❖ **Sightsavers Presentation on The Equal Bangladesh/Somatar Campaign**

Campaign work aims to adopt measures that protect and enhance the rights of persons with disabilities in Bangladesh.

Agenda item 3:

- ❖ **Dr Wali Tasar Uddin MBE, Chairman of Europe Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry (EBFCI)**

- Video Presentation of EBFCI recent visit to Bangladesh which aimed to strengthen business ties between UK, EU and Bangladesh.

Agenda item 4:

- ❖ **Update from International Centre for Climate Change and Development following COP29 in Baku., Saqib Huq, ICCCAD Managing Director**
- ➔ Raising Key Elements following COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan: Multilateral process, Carbon Markets and Climate Finance. As well as noting need for more financial support and delivering finance at local level.

Agenda item 5:

- ❖ **Open Discussion; Q & A**

MSP Members of The Group

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Foyso Choudhury MSP
 Miles Briggs MSP
 Sarah Boyack MSP
 Evelyn Tweed MSP
 Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Non-MSP Members of The Group

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

Juned Hussain Chowdhury
 Md Mosheer Rahman
 Ibrahim Rashid
 Robiul Islam
 Ehtesham Hasnain
 Farhana Kabir
 Aladin Ali
 Nazia Sharmin
 Abu Saleh Md Masum
 Abu Meron
 Md Mokaddes Hossain
 Md. Nayem Dewan
 Kohinur Sultana Chowdhury
 Alexander Dindial
 M. Mozammel Huq

Md Abaidur Rahman
Khaled Choudhury
Kabir Uddin Ahmed
Cllr Nurul Hoque Ali
Dr Shaif Uddin
Robiul Islam
Ahmed Ali (Jubu)
Muhammad Bodrul Husain
Goyas Miah
Nazmul Ahsan
Ziauddin k Siddique - Scottish Bangladeshi Welfare Association
Farhana Murshida Kabi
Dr Shaif Uddin Ahammed
Cllr Abdul Jabbar
Shahnoor Chowdhury
Rashpal Nottay
Taleb Uddin
Johura Ahmed
Abu Meron
Md Shohidul Islam
Laila Israt Jahan
Farhan Masud Khan
Abul Hasnat
Dr Wali Tasar Uddin
Ibrahim Rashid
Bodrul Husain
Mahjabeen Khaled
Shaha Haque
Syed Shamsul Islam
Abdul Rahim
Jamal Khan
Md Shaoon Khan
Salauddin Chowdhury
Muhammad Azizul Islam
Shamima Haque
Ehtesham Hasnain
Matin Khan
Abul kalam
Dr Abdul Kadir
Abdul Motlib Chowdhury
Craig Mclver
Badrul Hussain
Mohammad Zahid
Khaled Miah
Md Shohidul Islam
Nasima Akther
Sharin Mohammad
Din Mohammad
Ashik Miah

Organisations

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC)
Bangladesh Association Glasgow
Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh
Bangladesh Catering Association Scotland
The Bangla Centre SCIO
Europe Bangladesh Federation of Commerce & Industry
Bangladeshi Students Association of Scotland
Bangladesh Medical Association UK
Council of Bangladeshis in Scotland
Greater Selhet Development & Council UK
Scottish Bangladeshi Welfare Association
Edinburgh University South Asian Students Association - SASA
Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Edinburgh City Council
Police Scotland
Central Scotland Racial Equality Council
Bangladesh High Commission
Central Scotland Regional Equality Council
Grampian Regional Equality Council
West of Scotland Regional Equality Council
East Lothian Council
Midlothian Council
West Lothian Council
Lothian and Borders Police
Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service
NHS Lothian

Group Office Bearers

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Foyso Choudhury MSP
Deputy Convener	Miles Briggs MSP
Secretary	Bangladesh High Commission
Treasurer	NONE

Financial Benefits or Other Benefits

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT
(Please tick all boxes that apply)

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on <X>, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties	X
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	X

Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM		X
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM		X
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings		X
Provided minutes of all meetings		X
Signed	Foyso! Choudhury MSP	
Date	20/12/2024	