

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)

10/12/2025

Date Annual Return Submitted

19/12/2025

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]

27/11/2024

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 6th June 2025:

In Attendance:

MSPs:

Foysof Choudhury MSP (Chair)

Miles Briggs MSP

Non-MSP Members Attendance No: 33

Members of Public Approx No: 30

Guest speakers: 2

Brief description of main subjects discussed:

- The meeting focused on strengthening Bangladesh–Scotland relations and addressing the ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis.
- Key discussions included an update from the Bangladesh High Commission on democratic, institutional, and economic reforms in Bangladesh, the role of the Scottish Bangladeshi diaspora, and recommendations for parliamentary and trade cooperation.
- Significant attention was given to the Rohingya situation, including humanitarian conditions in Cox’s Bazar, the impact of international aid cuts, food insecurity, and protection challenges.
- Updates were provided on the UK’s first permanent Rohingya Memorial Stone and its role in awareness and remembrance.
- Presentations from ActionAid UK and the UN World Food Programme highlighted worsening malnutrition, funding shortfalls, and urgent advocacy needs.
- The meeting concluded with open discussion on education, health, climate change, and agreed actions to raise awareness, support humanitarian advocacy, and pursue collaborative initiatives in Scotland and Bangladesh.

CPG Meeting & AGM on 10th December 2025:

MSP Attendance: Foysof Choudhury MSP (Chair), Miles Briggs MSP and Mercedes Villalba MSP

Non-MSP Members no: 10

Guest speakers: 1

Brief description of main subjects discussed:

- Convenor welcomed the newly appointed Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh and reemphasised purpose of group - focused on strengthening Scotland–Bangladesh relations in a non-political context.
- The AGM approved the 2024 minutes and re-appointed office bearers.
- Updates were provided on political, democratic, economic and human rights reforms in Bangladesh, upcoming elections, and the Rohingya refugee crisis.

- A COP30 debrief presented by Climate Director at the Department of Environment of the Bangladeshi Government highlighted global climate commitments, climate finance, and adaptation priorities for vulnerable countries.
- The discussion emphasised Scotland’s potential role in supporting Bangladesh on climate adaptation, humanitarian assistance and international advocacy, with the meeting closing on a reaffirmation of continued parliamentary engagement.

MSP Members of The Group

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

Foysof 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

Abida Islam - High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the UK
 M Nazrul Islam Phd - Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the UK
 Dr Wali Tasar Uddin MBE – Hon. Consul General of Bangladesh in Scotland.
 Tanvir Mohammad Azim - Bangladesh High Commission London
 Md Saifur Rahman - Bangladesh High Commission London
 Moumita Zeenat - Bangladesh High Commission London
 Shorof Uddin
 Dr Abdul Kadir
 Luthfur Rahman
 Juned Hussain Chowdhury
 Minto Rahman
 Md Mosheer Rahman
 Ibrahim Rashid
 Farhan Khan
 Abdul Rahim Zakir
 Abu Zaman
 Syed Kamal Ahmed
 Abdul Shahid (Shahidul)
 Mahmood Rajah Khan
 Fakhrul M Islam
 Robiul Islam
 Ehtesham Hasnain
 Farhana Kabir

	<p>Aladin Ali Nazia Sharmin Abu Saleh Md Masum Muhammad Bodrul Husain 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 Azizul Islam, PhD, CA Priyajit Debsarkar Muhammad Idrish</p>
<p>Organisations</p>	<p>Bangladesh High Commission (Secretariat) Assistant High Commission Manchester Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC) Europe Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry (EBFCI) Bangladesh Association Glasgow Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce Edinburgh City Council Police Scotland Council of Bangladeshis in Scotland Central Scotland Racial Equality Council Central Scotland Regional Equality Council Grampian Regional Equality Council West of Scotland Regional Equality Council East Lothian Council Midlothian Council West Lothian Council Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p>

	NHS Lothian Bangladesh Catering Association Scotland Edinburgh University South Asian Students Association - SASA Bangladeshi Students Association of Scotland (BASOS) Greater Sylhet Welfare Council The Bangla Centre SCIO Thistle Shapla Cultural Group
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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	Foysof Choudhury MSP
Deputy Convener	Miles Briggs MSP
Secretary	Bangladesh High Commission London
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.

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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	19/12/2025