

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.)

12/01/22

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

30/11/2022

Date Annual Return Submitted

21/12/2022

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]

15/12/2021

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 15th December:

Attendance: Foysol Choudhury MSP, Miles Briggs MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Mercedes Villalba MSP, Staff of Foysol Choudhury, High Commissioner of Bangladesh - H. E. Ms. Saida Muna Tasneem

Apologies:

Evelyn Tweed MSP and Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

- Welcome
- Election of Office bearers
- Chair
- Vice Convenors
- Secretary
- Future actions

- Foysol welcomed guests to the AGM of the Cross-Party Group on Bangladesh
- Foysol then moved to the Election of Office bearers.
The election of Convenor was unanimous with Foysol Choudhury taking the position.
The election of Vice Convenor was unanimous with Miles Briggs taking the position.
It was agreed that the High Commission of Bangladesh would act as Secretariat with assistance of Foysol Choudhury's office.
- It was agreed that the CPG would work in partnership with the commission to build each meeting with a theme and to create a work plan on each topic.
- Each CPG would have a guest speaker on each topic wither further development of the work plan after the meeting.
- The CPG agreed to reach out to other interested parties who might be interested in becoming CPG members.

Foysol to set out future actions focusing on:

- Trade and Investment: Bilateral trade relations with Scotland, UK and Bangladesh and identifying ways to remove barriers, and strengthen existing relations to invest more in Bangladesh, opening up more opportunities for the economy to diversify beyond textile industry.
- Travel Links: Look in identifying ways to collaborate to improve connectivity with rest of the world and make Bangladesh appeal as a hot tourist destination.
- Health Inequalities: Covid inequalities, equal access to healthcare
- Employability: Looking at creating a better skilled workforce to enable Bangladesh to take advantage of new economic opportunities and boost the employment options and move away from informal jobs to ensure they are covered by employment rights and have access to sick leave, maternity, pensions etc.

- Education: Establishing Higher Education branches in Bangladesh particularly for those who cannot afford to have British Education and travel to the UK.
- Climate Change: Following COP26 in Glasgow, to discuss climate justice, mitigation
- Parliamentary Relations (Westminster and Bangladesh National Parliament): work with Westminster and Bangladesh National Parliament in unison to collaborate and discuss all the above priorities.

CPG Meeting on 30th November 2022:

Attendance:

MSP Members

Foysool Choudhury MSP, Miles Briggs MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Kaukab Stewart MSP

Non-MSP Members:

High Commission for Bangladesh London: H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem
Bangladesh Assistant High Commission Manchester: Kazi Ziaul Hasan
Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh
Bangladesh Catering Association Scotland
Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC)

Cllrs:

Cllr Naz Anis Miah
Cllr Lynn Wardlaw of Dunfermline
Cllr Nurul Hoque Ali

Other Non-Member organisations:

Bangladesh Glasgow Association
NRB Scotland
Greater Selhet Development & Council UK

Members of the public: approx. 40

Apologies:

MSP

Jackie Baillie MSP
Katy Clark MSP
Ivan McKee MSP
Dr Alasdair Allan MSP
Lord Provost of Edinburgh

Non-MSP Member

Police Scotland

Agenda item 1: Welcome

Foyso! Choudhury MSP welcomed and gave thanks to members and friends of CPG on Bangladesh for attending the meeting along with a warm welcome to guest speaker Assistant High Commissioner for Bangladesh (Manchester), Mr. Kazi Ziaul Hasan.

Agenda item 2: AGM

Convenor: Foyso! Choudhury MSP

Co-Convenors: Miles Briggs MSP and Sarah Boyack MSP

Secretariat: High Commission of Bangladesh to the UK

Agenda item 3: Guest Presentation

Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh (Manchester) gave a presentation on Trade/Investment, Development, Demographics, Bangladesh-UK relations and the Climate emergency.

This followed with a contribution of H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the UK.

Agenda item 4: General discussion

Attendees discussed concerns on climate change impacts on Bangladesh and called for Climate Justice, pinpointing at engineering solutions to adapt and mitigate to climate impacts.

Travel and Tourism was discussed at length and the Assistant High Commissioner answered questions from attendees confirming Bangladesh is safe to travel too and invest in. Discussing a need to improve infrastructure and create more international connections to attract international visitors and investors and, working to make Bangladesh a tourist destination but without making it another Bali.

Next CPG to focus on Tourism.

Concluded to re-affirm CPG's commitment to work with Scotland, UK and Bangladesh to build bridges and focus on the positive.

Agenda item 5

- Date and Time of Next Meeting to be confirmed.

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

Kaukab Stewart 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

Organisations

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC)
Bangladesh Association Glasgow
Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh
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
Bangladesh Catering Association Scotland

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
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Deputy Convener	Miles Briggs MSP
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Secretary	Moumita Zeenat First Secretary Bangladesh High Commission in London
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Treasurer	NONE
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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.

Convener Contact Details

Name	Foyso! Choudhury MSP
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Parliamentary address	Office of Foyso! Choudhury MSP for Lothian Region The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
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**Telephone
number**

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