

Cross-Party Group on Challenging Racial and Religious Prejudice

AGM

Tuesday 14th November at 6pm on zoom

Present

Foysool Choudhury	MSP
Anas Sarwar	MSP (Chair)
Kaukab Stewart	MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Ephraim Borowski	Scottish council of Jewish communities
Alessandra Cecolin	University of Aberdeen
Daniel Gilius	MEND
Lesley Hinds	
Peter Hopkins	Newcastle University (Secretary)
Dr Asifa M Hussain	Heriot-Watt university
Sameer Hussain	
Lindsay Taylor	MEND
Kimberley Wong	CRER

Apologies

Naseem Anwar	
Sabah Aslam	Interfaith Glasgow
Farkhanda Chaudhry	
Raza Sadiq	Active Life Club

Welcome

Anas Sarwar opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Election of office bearers

Anas Sarwar MSP had already intimated his intention to stand down as Convener of the Group. Choudhury MSP was nominated for the role of Convener by Kaukab Stewart MSP and seconded by Anas Sarwar MSP.

The Deputy Conveners are currently Kaukab Stewart MSP, Fulton MacGregor MSP, and Pam Gosal MSP. All three are willing to continue in this role and were proposed to remain in post by Anas Sarwar MSP and seconded by Foysool Choudhury MSP.

Finally, Peter Hopkins was proposed to continue in the role of Secretary by Anas Sarwar MSP and this was seconded by Foyso Choudhury MSP.

Re-launch of Islamophobia inquiry

It was noted that the re-launch of the Islamophobia inquiry recommendations had taken place on 30th October with contributions from Zara Mohammed, Omar Afzal and Khadija Mohammed. This had received some press coverage and written questions have been submitted to the Scottish Parliament. Foyso Choudhury MSP noted that he plans to raise a question around this at First Ministers Questions and Kaukab Stewart MSP noted she would be eager to ask a follow-on question on this.

AOCB

It was noted that the group had covered several important topics over the last year including sessions focusing on racism and religious discrimination against refugees and asylum seekers; Scotland's Jewish communities; anti-Catholic discrimination and sectarianism; and racism against Sikh communities. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to these sessions.

It was noted that a priority for a future session would be to discuss racism and discrimination against Hindus in Scotland.

Foyso Choudhury MSP noted that there had been an excellent event by MEND focusing on Islamophobia Awareness Month that was sponsored by Kaukab Stewart MSP.

Future meetings are scheduled for 5th December, 23rd January, and 26th March (all online and on zoom).