

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief
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.)
28th October 2021
Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)
25 th October 2023
Date Annual Return Submitted
06 th November 2023
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]
16th November 2022
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.
16 th November 2022 - Presentation by The Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen on his landmark report <i>The Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the UK Foreign Secretary of Foreign and Commonwealth Office Support for Persecuted Christians</i> . Attended by 3 MSPs & 19 Non-MSPs Members
1 st March 2023 – Open Doors' World Watch List 2023 presented by Alan Meldrum. Attended by 2 MSPs & 25 Non-MSP Members
31 st May 2023 – Aid to the Church in Need's investigation into Freedom of Religion or Belief concerns in Nigeria, presented by John Pontifex. Attended by 3 MSPs & 7 Non-MSP members.
25 th October 2023 – AGM & Roundtable discussion on how faith and belief communities see the current situation for their group in Scotland. Attended by 3 MSPs & 22 Non-MSP members.
MSP Members of The Group Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.
John Mason MSP Murdo Fraser MSP

Jeremy Balfour MSP
Stephen Kerr MSP
Katy Clark 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

Frances Hume
Ahmed Owusu
Alan Meldrum
Jeremy Balfour MSP
Daniel Gilius
Kazim Ukka
Magdalen Lambkin
Dr. Maureen Sier
Oliver Lane
Omar Afzal
Ravinder Kaur Nijjar
Rev Bonnie Evans-Hills
Rev Gary Dean
Stephen Scholes
Allison Stephen
Susan Siegel
Mr. M. Lovitt
Rt Rev Sally-Foster Fulton
Anthony Horan
David Cavanagh
James Fraser
Brian Miller
John Mason MSP
Murdo Fraser MSP
Philip Mendelsohn
Michael Veitch

Organisations

Interfaith Scotland
Ahmadiyya Community
Open Doors
MEND
Muslim Community
Interfaith Glasgow
Baha'i Community
Family Federation
Faith and Belief Dundee
Muslim Forum of Scotland
Sikh Community
Episcopal Church
Christian community
Jewish Community
General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
Catholic Parliamentary Office
Salvation Army

	Release International Care Jewish Community
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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	John Mason MSP
Deputy Convener	Murdo Fraser MSP
Secretary	Interfaith Scotland
Treasurer	N/A

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.

N/A

Convener Contact Details	
Name	John Mason MSP
Parliamentary address	1335 Gallowgate Glasgow, G31 4DN
Telephone number	0141 550 4327