

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief
Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please state the purpose of the Group.2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.3. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established.4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Group will discuss and consider how to promote freedom of religion or belief for any and all.2. This CPG would be a continuation of the Cross Party Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief in Session 5. The intention is primarily to focus on the position of religious or belief minority groups overseas who are facing persecution or general pressure. However, we have left it open that we could also look at issues in Scotland and the UK. Many people in Scotland have connections with or interest in countries around the world where faith or belief groups are under pressure and therefore this CPG is very much in the public interest.3. There is no other CPG dealing with religion or belief in this overarching sense. There are CPGs which focus on a particular country such as Pakistan, China, or Israel and at least one CPG deals with a particular religion, i.e. Islamophobia. However, overall we consider that there would be minimal overlap.4. At our opening meeting we had a presentation by CPG member organisation Open Doors giving an overview of the countries around the world where persecution is most serious and some of the causes of this. Suggestions for the next couple of meetings include one session with UK or Scottish Government representatives, especially concerning the Bishop of Truro report. We might also hold a meeting focussed on Afghanistan as there

has been so much change there recently and there are concerns about minority groups.

MSP Members of the Group

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

John Mason MSP (SNP)
Murdo Fraser MSP (Conservative)
Jeremy Balfour MSP (Conservative)
Stephen Kerr MSP (Conservative)
Katy Clark MSP (Labour)

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

Anne Dunn
Steve Begarnie
Hassan Rabbani

Organisations

Open Doors
Interfaith Scotland
Catholic Parliamentary Office
Baptist Union of Scotland
Steadfast Global
Aberdeen Interfaith
Interfaith Glasgow
Release International
Universal Peace Federation and Dundee Faith and Belief

	<p>Aid to the Church in Need</p> <p>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</p> <p>Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society</p> <p>Humanist Society Scotland</p> <p>Evangelical Alliance</p> <p>Religions of Peace UK Women of Faith Network</p> <p>The Christian Institute</p> <p>International Christian Chamber of Commerce</p>
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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

Subscription Charged by the Group

Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

N/A

Convener Contact Details

Name	John Mason MSP
Parliamentary address	1335 Gallowgate Glasgow G31 4DN
Telephone number	0141-550 4327

Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed John Mason

Date 29 October 2021