

## **Meeting and AGM of the CPG on Migration**

**Date:** 6 December 2022

**Location:** Committee Room 6, with the option to join remotely via Microsoft Teams

### **MSP attendance:**

- Bob Doris MSP
- Paul Sweeney MSP
- Mark Ruskell MSP

### **Non-MSP attendance:**

- JustRight Scotland
- Our Grades, Not Visas
- We Belong
- Maryhill Integration Network
- Community Infosource
- British Red Cross
- Freedom from Torture
- Friends of Scottish Settlers
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- VOICES Network
- Scottish Detainee Visitors
- Outside the Box
- Poverty Alliance
- Grampian Regional Equality Council
- United Nations House Scotland
- LGBT Health
- Student Action for Refugees
- Migrants Organising for Rights and Empowerment
- Gianluca Palombo
- Shawn Fernandez
- Mala Fernandez
- Yolanda

### **Apologies**

- UNESCO Chair for Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts, Alison Phipps
- Ellen McGeough

- Church of Scotland
- Glasgow Asylum Destitution Action Network

### **Topics discussed:**

- **Election of Office Bearers**

- Convener – Paul Sweeney MSP re-elected by Bob Doris MSP and seconded by Pinar Aksu, Maryhill Integration Network.
- Vice Convener – Bob Doris MSP re-elected by Paul Sweeney MSP and seconded by Ahmed Alhindi.
- Secretariat – Maryhill Integration Network re-elected by Paul Sweeney MSP and seconded by Alham Souidi.

- **Education**

- Presentation from Mariam Bafo from We Belong on the 2012 law change which meant young people granted refugee status were not entitled to student loan and their campaign work thereafter.
- Contribution from Ahmad Alhindi from Our Grades, Not Visas which outlined lived experience of the restrictions on SAAS on migrant students and provided an update on their campaign work.
- Presentation from Andy Sirel from JustRight Scotland, highlighting legal case against the Scottish regulations and imminent Scottish Government consultation on new regulations.
- Group members shared experiences of themselves and friends and the barriers they faced in trying to access higher education.

- **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**

- Variation in access to ESOL support and classes across different local authority areas.

**Actions:**

- Members to contact Our Grades Not Visas if they'd like to support the campaign.
- Members to consider whether their MSPs may have the opportunity to raise this issue in the Scottish Parliament.