

Meeting of the CPG on Migration

Date: 28 February 2023

Location: Committee Room 4, with the option to join remotely via Teams

MSP attendance:

- Bob Doris MSP
- Paul Sweeney MSP

Non-MSP attendance:

- Alison Thewliss MP
- Scottish Detainee Visitors
- Detention Forum
- Human Rights Consortium Scotland
- Anna Pilgrim, UN House Scotland, Gender and Migration Team
- Justine Vonpierre, UN House of Scotland
- Maryhill Integration Network
- VOICES Network
- Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland (SOHTIS)
- Community Infosource
- Friends of Scottish Settlers (FOSS)
- Refugees for Justice
- Professor Alison Phipps, UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts
- Guy, Office of Maggie Chapman MSP
- Positive Action on Housing
- The Welcoming
- Ross Mackay
- John Carswell, Church of Scotland
- Shaina Gabi, Citizens Advice Edinburgh
- LGBT Health
- Sheila, Office of Foysol Choudhury MSP

Apologies:

- Paul Pearson, Poverty Alliance

Topics discussed:

- **Detention**

- Presentation from Kate Alexander (Scottish Detainee Visitors) on the work of SDV, an overview of the extensive waits people in detention face and importance of community-based alternatives.
 - Chair of All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Detention, Alison Thewliss MP, provided an update on the work of the APPG on detention including a report and consideration of alternatives to detention including Action Foundation pilot.
 - Jonathan Ellis (Detention Forum) shared insights on the number of people being detained and the impact of detention, noted importance of community-based pilots in creating a more compassionate system.
 - Mhairi Snowden (HRCS) outlined human rights landscape, how detention constitutes a violation and how the UK compares to neighbouring countries.
 - Ahmed (FOSS) discussed hotel accommodation as a means of detention and shared insight on the challenges.
- Members discussed the profit that is made from the detention estate, challenges arising in Glasgow and the varying levels of support across local authorities.
 - Right to work and the Right to Remain toolkit.

Actions:

- Paul Sweeney MSP (PS) and Bob Doris MSP to send joint letter to Scottish Government regarding community-based alternatives to detention.
- PS to email MSP colleagues and share the Right to Remain toolkit.
- Arrange a joint training session for the CPG and the APPG