

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

**Date:** Wednesday 4 October 2023

**Location:** Committee Room 2, with the option to join remotely via Microsoft Teams

### **MSP attendance:**

- Bob Doris MSP
- Paul Sweeney MSP

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

- David, Office of Bob Doris MSP
- Erin, Office of Paul Sweeney MSP
- Sheila, Office of Foysol Choudhury MSP
- Andrew Sirel, Just Right Scotland
- Mhairi Snowden, Human Right Consortium
- Bronagh Andrew, TARA
- Maryhill Integration Network
- VOICES Network
- Friends of Scottish Settlers
- Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland
- Human Right Consortium Scotland
- Govan Community Project
- LGBT Health
- Community Info Source
- Lawon
- Grampian Regional Equality Council
- Yagmur Aksu- Student
- Daniel, University of Glasgow
- MEND
- Professor Alison Phipps
- Church of Scotland
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Marion Byres
- Martha Harding
- Wellington Church International Welcome Club
- Tahmina
- NHS GGC

- Kingsley Omeihe
- British Redcross
- Positive Action in Housing
- Dan Fisher

### **Apologies:**

- Outside the Box
- John Carins

### **Topics discussed:**

- **Actions from last meeting**
  - Format of meeting minutes will be revised and shorter so people can speak freely about their experiences as advised by clerks.
  - Paul (MSP) thanked the organizers of right to remain toolkit at the University of Glasgow
  - Paul (MSP) updated about writing to the minister regarding alternatives to detention following the evaluation of the Kings Arm Project and will update members once there's a response.
- **The Impact of the Illegal Migration Act**
  - Andrew Sirel (JRS) gave an overview of the Illegal Migration Act which covers Removals, protection claims, leave to remain, detention, age assessment and removal destinations.
  - Bronagh Andrew (TARA) highlighted the negative impact of the NABA on survivors of trafficking across the UK and shared concerns about how the illegal migration Act will affect survivors.
  - Mhairi Snowden (HRCS) reflected on specific parts of the bill related to human rights and actions and opportunities to respond to.
  - Twana shared his concerns about how the Act will affect many asylum seekers.
  - Members discussed how the Act is going to put many in indefinite limbo, banish the asylum system in the UK and cause a lot of damage to people's lives. Members also made suggestions of ways the Scottish government can challenge the bill.
- **Actions:**
  - Paul Sweeney MSP and Bob Doris MSP to write to Scottish Ministers to challenge the Act in court.

- Members are welcomed to bring in suggestions of funds, regarding social security measures for ministers to consider.
- Round table on Human Trafficking chaired by Foysol Choudhury MSP on 25/10/23 at the Scottish parliament, Secretariat to share details.