

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Shared Parenting
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.
1) Purpose of the Group: <p>The Group will identify, examine and promote policy and practice that supports parents in sharing parenting responsibilities. It will consider how gender stereotypes can be tackled in the pursuit of a better understanding of what we need to do to ensure the best possible childhood and most promising adult life for Scotland's children. It will provide a forum for MSPs, stakeholders and other interested parties to engage directly in dialogue to inform policy developments and practice which impact on parents sharing responsibilities for the role and support networking on this topic.</p>
(2+3) Supporting explanation + overlaps: <p>While there is general public support for the notion that in general children benefit from the emotional, material and psychological support of both their parents not only after divorce or separation but also within 'intact' families. However, in practice there are disincentives within policy and practice that stand in the way of achieving that for Scotland's children - from resistance to equal parental leave at work to the adversarial precepts of resolving disagreements when parents no longer live together. While other cross party groups touch on similar issues the distinctive contribution of this cpg is to pull all the threads together to identify the disincentives in culture and practice in place in Scotland that hold us back from Getting it Right for Every Child. It will</p>

gather experience and hear proposals to tackle the disincentives to sharing parenting in Scotland and hear from contributors from other countries on the positive alternatives that are established there.

4) Upcoming topics:

We have prospective contributions already drawn up from a retired family court judge in Israel where issues are resolved very differently; a university researcher whose project gathered the views and experience of young people about their experience of shared parenting. It is rare in Scotland to hear the voices of young people themselves; from a US campaigner on behalf of 'Moms for Shared Parenting' who sees shared parenting as a liberation from gendered custom and practice.

Whatever the outcome of the UK Supreme Court on the UNCRC Incorporation Act the Scottish Parliament is committed to embedding the Convention in public practice. We will spend time on the implications of UNCRC and on the Family Law Modernisation Strategy.

MSP Members of the Group

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

Fulton MacGregor (SNP),
Finlay Carson (Con),
Jeremy Balfour (Con),
Michael Marra (Lab)
Bob Doris (SNP)

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

Organisations

Shared Parenting Scotland
Scottish Youth Parliament

	Fathers Network Scotland Relationships Scotland Family Mediation West Parent Network Scotland Men in Childcare Midlothian Surestart Childrens Health Scotland The Spark Families Outside Circle Scotland Parenting Across Scotland Engender Home Start Men and Boys Initiative Issy Shillinglaw Grandparents Rights Grandparents Apart Connect CYPCS Early Years Scotland Dads Rock
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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	Fulton MacGregor MSP
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Deputy Convener	Findlay Carson MSP
Secretary	John Forsyth
Treasurer	Ian Maxwell
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.	
No subscription	
Convener Contact Details	
Name	Fulton Macgregor MSP
Parliamentary address	fulton.macgregor.msp@parliament.scot
Telephone number	0131 348 5797

Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct	
I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Shared Parenting is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.	
Signed	Fulton MacGregor

Date	28/09/2021
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