

**THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
CROSS PARTY GROUP ON ADULT SURVIVORS
OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE**

Draft Minutes: February 3, 2016

PRESENT

Margaret Mitchell MSP; Johann Lamont, MSP; Felicity Hollands, Scottish Parliament; Marianne Paton, Scottish Parliament; Sarah Nelson, University of Edinburgh; Anne Macdonald, Professional Advisor; Sandie Barton, Rape Crisis Scotland; Andrew Campbell, Bravemouth, Ann Donnan, Safe Space; Dr Sandra Ferguson, Royal Edinburgh Hospital; Sue Hampson, Safe to Say; Anke Kossurok, University of Edinburgh; Lorraine Sorley, Health in Mind; R. Eric Swanepoel, Writer & Publisher; Sandra Brown, Moira Anderson Foundation; Maggie Docherty; Moira Anderson Foundation; Valerie Barr, Centre stage Communities; Marnie Collin, KASP; Dawn Fyfe; SAY Women; Traci Kirkland, Open Secret; Gwen McCreath, Health in Mind;

APOLOGIES

Alison McInnes MSP; Jackie Baillie, MSP; Elaine Smith, MSP; Martin Henry, Stop it Now; Javita Narang; University of Edinburgh; Alison Christie; SFAD; Janine Rennie, Open Secret; Kath Muirhead, Pilton Community Health Project; Carol Willson, Independent, Sharon Guest, Barnardo's; Irene Edgar, Safe to Say; Jen Stewart, RASAC P&K,; Annie Taylor, Children 1st, Carol Targett, Pilton Community Health Project

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Andrew Campbell and seconded by Anne Macdonald.

MATTERS ARISING

- Members who have not paid the membership fee were requested to do so at the earliest. Reminder emails had been sent to all those members who had not paid the fee yet.
- Members praised the presentation made by Javita Narang at the last CPG meeting on key findings from the documentary made by her, together with a film maker, Nauman Qureshi, on adult survivors of CSA in the Scottish ethnic minorities.

Member's Debate: Follow Up Meeting/Action

Overall there was a concern regarding the Member's Debate, as the CPG members did not find it satisfying. It was proposed to meet the Minister again to discuss the key concerns of the CPG including funding and the National Strategy.

Apology Bill

Margaret Mitchell MSP informed members that the Apologies Bill had now been passed by the Scottish Parliament (December 2015) and that by the end of February, it will receive Royal Assent as the Apologies (Scotland) Act.

The legislation provides that an apology as defined in the Act is not admissible in civil proceedings.

Margaret directly attributed the introduction of the apologies legislation from her work as convener of the cross-party group on adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. It followed on from a talk by Professor Miller, the chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, who came to speak to the CPG and told its members that some Parliaments had passed legislation to ensure that an apology could be given without fear of its being used as a basis for establishing legal liability. It was with adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse in mind-and the assistance of all CPG members-that Margaret undertook further research on apologies legislation. The members expressed their gratitude towards Margaret Mitchell for introducing and pursuing the Bill.

Legacy Paper to inform future work programme of CPG

Margaret Mitchell read the legacy paper highlighting future work programme of the CPG. Following suggestions were made by the members for inclusion in the legacy paper:

- Funding to be allocated for early intervention and preventative work on CSA.
- Funding legal aid, as Scotland was considered to be lagging behind in this area.
- The work undertaken by Javita on CSA amongst the Scottish ethnic minorities to be kept in the legacy paper.
- Backlash against CSA, not just against celebrities, but also society wide. In this regard, education and awareness building in schools was proposed.
- A paper on different models of therapies available to survivors.
- Working with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for increased awareness in courts and sensitivity towards criminals with mental health and abuse concerns.
- Proposal for organising a round table discussion.

The members were informed that the legacy paper has to be submitted in 30 days from now, and were requested to send any suggestions or recommendations for changes in the legacy paper within a month.

Dissolution of the Scottish Parliament

The members were informed about that the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament on 23rd March, 2016 and that the CPG would cease to exist when the Parliament dissolves.

AOCB

The process for participation in the CPG meeting by non-members was discussed and clarified to the members. There is a formal process whereby anyone with an interest to attend the meeting is required to officially put in a written request, which would be reviewed by the office bearers. If their request is approved, non-members would be able to attend the CPG meeting. No one can attend the meeting without following this formal procedure.