

## **Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Pakistan**

Minutes of the meeting on 27 March 17.30, Committee Room 4

Present:

MSP'S

Michael McMahon MSP (Convenor and Chair)

Murdo Fraser MSP (Vice-convenor)

Willie Rennie, MSP (Vice Convenor)

Siobhan McMahon (Member)

Hanzala Malik MSP (Member)

None MSP'S

Masood Malik

Mehmood Hussain

Abid Raja

Nadeem Ashraf

Khalida Hussain

Rehana Hafiz

Tariq Main

Khalid Mir

Mehbood Ditta

Parveen Khalid

M Shamas

Amjeed Khalil

Zeehsan Saeed

Ehtansham Awan

Zahira Hassan

Tanveer Bhutta

Tanveer Mohammed

Mohsin Ali

Mohammed Khurseed

Mohammed Hameed

Mohammed Kabir

Dr Amjad

Sheyrhar Khan

Willie McAruther

Mohammed Ali

Malik Din

Saima Ashraf

Mohammed Iqbal

Iftikhar Hussain

Sikandar Ali

Syed Khan

Mohammed Asif

Shahid Anwar

Mohammed Nouman

Mohammed Arif  
Yasra Durrani  
Liz Cameron (Scottish Chamber of Commerce)  
Charndeeep Singh (Scottish Chamber of Commerce)  
Saqlain Javed (Consul, Consulate of Pakistan, Glasgow)  
Sajjad Qazi (CWC, Consulate General of Pakistan, Manchester)  
Maqbool Shah  
Mustapha Ali  
Shazad Mehmood  
Omer Naseer  
Hassan Shah  
Mohammed Anwar

## Apologies

Deputy Chief Constable Steve Allan of Police Service of Scotland  
Jane McCartney NHS 24

### 1. Welcome

Michael McMahon, Murdo Fraser and Willie Rennie MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Michael McMahon, MSP Convener of the CPG on behalf of the CPG wished Pakistan and the Scottish Pakistani community happy Pakistan Day which was celebrated in Pakistan and across the world on the 23rd March.

2. Videos/Presentations were made which showed Pakistani Pictures of landscapes with Music in the background to mark the occasion of Pakistan Day.

### 3. The Convener Introduced the Guest Speakers

- Saqlain Javed, Consul, Consulate of Pakistan, Glasgow
- Sajjad Qazi, CWC, Consulate General of Pakistan, Manchester
- Lynn Cameron, CEO of Scottish Chamber of Commerce

Saqlain Javed, spoke and wished the Scottish Pakistani Community a Pakistan Resolution Day. Saqlain Javed explained what Pakistan Resolution Day is It was 23rd March 1940 when the Pakistan Resolution was passed that is also known as Lahore Resolution. This day holds a special importance in the heart of every Pakistani owing to the fact that on this day the concept of a separate Islamic Republic of Pakistan was presented at the location where Minar-e-Pakistan stands today and it was until 14th August 1947 when this dream took a practical form when Pakistan was created. Saqlain Javed also highlighted that there should be

trade links between Scotland and Pakistan and Pakistan is a great place of business and this can be developed between Scotland and Pakistan.

Sajjad Qazi, Spoke and introduced himself as the Community Welfare Counsellor based at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Manchester and he is responsible for Community Welfare issues in Scotland. He has just taken over the post recently and moved from Islamabad . He explained Community Welfare Division (CWD) looks after the welfare of expatriate Pakistanis in the UK. It has two offices one each in London and Manchester each headed by a Counsellor. The CWD handles all grievances against individuals and Government departments in Pakistan . These grievances are sent to the Complaints Cell for overseas Pakistanis in the Prime Minister's Secretariat (Public) in Islamabad and the Provincial Complaint Cells in the provincial capitals. He also highlighted that he had visited the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides in Scotland and made a presentation on the scenery of Outer Hebrides then he also made a presentation on the similar places in Pakistan and asked the audience to tell the difference between both places and he highlighted that Scotland and Pakistan should develop tourism links to promote tourism between Scotland and Pakistan as both countries enjoyed great culture and had picture scenery and landscape.

Liz Cameron spoke as the CEO of Scottish Chamber of Commerce and explained her role of the chamber As the umbrella organisation for 26 local Chambers of Commerce representing more than 50 percent of private sector jobs in Scotland - Scottish Chambers of Commerce has built a reputation as Scotland's premier voice for business at national and international level. Liz Cameron was very pleased to formally announce establishment of Scottish Pakistan Trade Board and the Scottish Chamber of Commerce will act as the secretariat. Scottish Pakistan Trade Board will promote trade and business links between Scotland through Government to Government and business to business and will promote more business and entrepreneur links and this a very a positive step.

4. The Audience appreciated the speakers and thought the establishment of the Scottish Pakistan Trade Board was a very good initiative.

5. The Convener opened floor for questions to the speaker or any other issues anyone wanted to raise. The Community members raised the PIA issue again. As in Pakistan there is a caretaker set-up this will be followed up to find what the latest on the PIA flights between Scotland and Lahore is

The Convenor of the CPG Michael McMahon announced that the CPG would like to establish a Sub group of the CPG to look at issues effecting Scottish Pakistani women and the

group had met informally with Siobhan McMahon where around 20 women of Scottish Pakistani Origin attended to raise issues affecting the Scottish Pakistani Women and requested a such a group be set up.

The Convener asked the floor and members of the CPG what they thought of the subcommittee on women which would be headed by Siobhan McMahon which would report to the main CPG on Pakistan and would act as the sub group and feed issues to the CPG. All present welcomed this and no objections were raised as all thought this was an excellent idea to promote the women issues.

6. Next Meeting it was agreed for 17 April 2013 which would also be the AGM