

Cross Party Group on Palestine – meeting 13th 2013

MSP members present – Jim Hume, Sandra White, John Finnie. MSP apologies Drew Smith, Elaine Smith, Sarah Boyack, Jean Urquart, Dr Richard Simpson, Hugh Hendry.

There were 20 non-msp members present.

The meeting had been brought forward to 5.30pm and would only last 1 hour to allow those who wish to attend the opening of Hadeel in George Street.

STEPS gave a video and presentation on their support for Palestinian students attending St Andrew's University. Their first student also addressed the meeting. Members who wish to support STEPS to continue and expand their programme can contact them at info@stepspalestine.org.uk

A possible exhibition in parliament is being considered.

A showing of 5 broken cameras is being planned for Nakba day – 15th May

A paper showing how motions were raised and debated in the Scottish Parliament was circulated

The secretary outlined the ambitious plans for Palestine to be included in the festival of politics 23 – 25 Aug

A request has been received from Jenin for a twinning arrangement with a Scottish Town. Secretary will pass on details to any twinning association.

Claudia Beamish MSP wishes the cross party group to consider Skype communication to young Gaza women.

Members wish an extraordinary meeting of the cross party group to be called – if possible – when appropriate.

The meeting heard about the FBU support for Palestinian firefighters and the latest visit to the Scottish Parliament.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm