

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief

DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

21st February 2017

DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

21st February 2018

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

20th March 2018

DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]

21st February 2017

GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

21st February 2017 Meeting, Initial meeting of the Cross Party Group, John Mason MSP elected as group convener and Murdo Fraser MSP elected as vice convener of the group. The group also heard from Release International about the state of religious persecution across the world.

MSP Attendance: 3 Non-MSP Attendance: 11

13th June 2017 Meeting

The group heard from the Baha'i community about the problems they face internationally.

MSP Attendance: 4 Non-MSP Attendance: 15

22nd November Meeting

Heard from the Burma campaign about the plight of the Rohingya Muslim population living in the country and what type of action the organisations in the CPG could take to help push towards a resolution.

MSP Attendance: 1 Non-MSP Attendance: 10

21st February 2018 meeting

Groups AGM at which John Mason MSP was duly re-elected as group convener and Murdo Fraser MSP was re-elected as group vice convener. The group also heard from a representative of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities about the problem of antisemitism in the UK.

MSP Attendance: 2 Non-MSP Attendance: 21

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

John Mason MSP (SNP), Murdo Fraser MSP (Conservative), Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP (Liberal Democrat), Elaine Smith MSP (Labour), Gordon Lindhurst MSP (Conservative), Jeremy Balfour MSP (Conservative), Kate Forbes MSP (SNP), Maurice Golden MSP (Conservative), Ross Greer MSP (Green)

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	Brian Miller, David Bradwell, Martin Dore, Bill Wishart, Ray Kelly
Organisations	Interfaith Scotland - secretary Open Doors Church of Scotland Aid to the Church in Need

	Scottish Council of Jewish Communities Scottish Council of Muslims Free Church of Scotland Christian Solidarity Worldwide SOLAS Centre for Public Christianity Release International Bahá'í Community Iona Community Steadfast Global Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office Evangelical Alliance Catholic Parliamentary Office
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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	John Mason MSP
Deputy Convener	Murdo Fraser MSP
Secretary	Interfaith Scotland
Treasurer	NA

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received 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.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

NA

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	John Mason MSP
Parliamentary address	1335 Gallowgate Glasgow G31 4DN John.mason.msp@parliament.scot
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