

## CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

<b>NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP</b>
Cross-Party Group on Kurdistan
<b>DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED</b> (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.)
27/10/17
<b>DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM</b>
07/11/18
<b>DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED</b>
15/1/20
<b>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]</b>
24/10/17
<b>GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.</p>
<p>On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 the CPG hosted a meeting (via Skype) with Salih Muslim, former co-president and current foreign affairs spokesperson of the PYD, the leading political party in Northern Syria and driving force behind the Rojava revolution. This meeting was well attended, particularly by members of the Kurdish community in Scotland. Topics of discussion included the threat (now realised) of further Turkish</p>

invasion, relations with the US & UK governments, the defeat of ISIS' Caliphate and the success of local and cantonal elections in the Autonomous Administration's territories. Ross Greer MSP, Ruth Maguire MSP, Bob Dorris MSP, and John Finnie MSP attended this meeting, along with approximately 30 members of the community.

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the CPG held a meeting with Matt Nathan, coordinator of the Free Ocalan campaign, where we discussed the wave of hunger strikes across Turkey, Kurdistan and Europe demanding access to Mr Ocalan's island prison by his lawyers and family. We heard from Scottish activists who had taken part in a recent delegation attempting to reach Mr Ocalan, who delivered their report to the AGM. Ross Greer MSP and John Finnie MSP attended this meeting, along with approximately 15 non-MSP attendees.

On 26 November 2019, the CPG held its AGM and discussed its work programme for the year ahead. Office bearers were re-elected – Ross Greer MSP and Ruth Maguire MSP were re-elected as co-convenors and Scottish Solidarity with Kurdistan were re-elected as the secretariat. Ross Greer MSP and Ruth Maguire MSP attended this meeting, along with three representatives from Scottish Solidarity with Kurdistan.

CPG members engaged with the Kurdish community throughout the year on issues of domestic concern such as relations with Police Scotland as well as international issues, largely pertaining to events in Kurdistan itself, including the actions of the governments of Turkey, Iraq and Iran, as well as the Assad regime and other actors in the Syrian civil war. Motions relevant to developments in Kurdistan were also lodged as appropriate.

CPG members met with Ben Macpherson, Scottish Government minister for External Affairs, to discuss the community's concerns in relation to the Turkish government and to hear Mr Macpherson's perspective on how the Scottish Government defends human rights and democracy during the course of its international engagements.

In response to the Turkish invasion of Rojava, Northern Syria, the CPG co-convenors coordinated a letter of condemnation to the US ambassador to the UK, signed by over thirty MSPs.

## **MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

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

Bob Doris - SNP

John Finnie - Green

Ross Greer – Green (co-convenor)

Ruth Maguire – SNP (co-convenor)

Pauline McNeil – Labour

## 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	Scottish Solidarity with Kurdistan

## 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	Ross Greer & Ruth Maguire
Deputy Convener	
Secretary	Scottish Solidarity With Kurdistan
Treasurer	

## 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).

No financial or equivalent support received at all.

**SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP**

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

Nil

**CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS**

Name	Ross Greer & Ruth Maguire
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Parliamentary address	MG.21 & M4.13
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Telephone number	0131 348 86347 & 86953
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