

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Women in Enterprise
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.)
September 2016
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
16 September 2020
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
08/10/2020
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]
25 September 2019
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.
26 November 2019 - Annual Report and Women's Economic Empowerment This meeting saw the launch of the CPG annual report outlining meetings of the group since November 2018. We were also fortunate to coincide with the visit of international speakers who were attending a WES partnership conference in Edinburgh. The meeting heard presentations from Anne Meikle, on the work of the CPG throughout the year;

President Luis Solis (ex-President of Costa Rica) gave a presentation on the conclusions on UN reports on women's economic empowerment 2016/17.

1. The reports concluded that women's economic empowerment is not only the right thing to do but the intelligent thing to do.
2. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - without women's participation, and emancipation, will not be achieved.
3. When dealing with women's economic empowerment, we must remember we are not only talking about the economy but talking about human rights.
4. It is important to put value to the work that women do – including unpaid labour – which we need to value. We also need to be aware of visibility, collective voice and representation, and the need for role models and champions.

A short presentation was then made by Dinah Bennett, ICE consultancy and member of the Women's Economic Imperative (WEI) board. WEI focuses on transformative action. Its aim is to drive concrete, sustainable and measurable progress for women in the economic sphere, whether in the workplace or as entrepreneurs.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES: MSPs – 3; NON-MSPs - 29

March 2020 – BME women and enterprise

This meeting focussed on the theme of BME women and enterprise.

The meeting heard three presentations by BME women and their struggles – and successes – in setting up and running their own businesses.

1. Issues experienced with business support when starting up in business. Experience of women passed around different offices within the eco system. The issue is that people are asked to fit in to the service and not that the service addresses needs.
2. Issues of access to finance are many.
3. BAME women are asked to join many meetings with other businesses but no results come from those meetings. It can make you feel that you are taking part in a 'box ticking' exercise!
4. Diversity dramatically increases effective team decision making (research shows by 87%) and increases productivity and innovation. Imagine what BAME businesses could do to enhance the Scottish economy and our local communities and schools.
5. Participants agreed with the convenor that the session had been really thought provoking and inspirational. Gillian stated that it was really important for BME women to have the opportunity to engage with other committees and CPGs in the Parliament and asked that we try and make this happen through support of this CPG.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES: MSPs – 3; NON MSPs – 25

May 2020 – Cancelled due to Covid-19

September 2020 – AGM. Women's businesses and Covid 19

This meeting was held via zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Nominations for Office Bearers

Bill Bowman MSP requested nominations which were confirmed by Lynne Cadenhead as follows -
Convenor Gillian Martin MSP – proposed Bill Bowman MSP, seconded Lynne Cadenhead
Vice Convenor Jackie Baillie MSP – proposed Bill Bowman MSP, seconded Gillian Martin MSP
Secretary Anne Meikle – proposed Criona Courtney, seconded Gillian Martin MSP
Treasurer Carolyn Currie – proposed Criona Courtney, seconded Laura Galloway

Presentations were made by -

1. Linda Hill Miller, LAH Travel, described the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on her business. As owner of a travel agency her previously successful and highly profitable business faces significant debt without support through the existing Government routes.
2. Allison Harrison described her three year old business which is located at the heart of the financial district in Edinburgh city – an area where six months later, staff at neighbouring businesses who would previously take advantage of local yoga services - are still working remotely. The business provides work to 8 self-employed teachers. Despite an immediate pivot to online delivery the business was declined a pivoting business grant and an appeal turned down.

Gillian Martin summarised the meeting and noted that the matter was worthy of putting forward a member's motion to the Scottish Parliament on women led businesses in the time of COVID. She encouraged those attending to make sure local MPs were suitably informed of the issues experienced and agreed to work with Lynne Cadenhead of Women's Enterprise Scotland on preparing the Motion.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES – MSPs – 2; NON-MSPs – 30.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Gillian Martin MSP – Convenor – SNP
Jackie Baillie MSP Vice Convenor – Labour
Bill Bowman MSP – Conservative
Emma Harper MSP – SNP
Andy Wightman MSP – Scottish Green Party
Daniel Johnson MSP – 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

Women's Enterprise Scotland - secretary and treasurer;
Royal Bank of Scotland;
Business Gateway;
Federation of Small Businesses;
Young Enterprise Scotland;
WES ambassadors;
Scottish Enterprise;
Highlands and Islands Enterprise;
GrowBiz;
Edinburgh Business School, Heriot Watt University;
Napier University;
Queen Margaret University;
Fraser of Allander Institute;
Scottish Autism;
Oxfam;
MS society Scotland;
Women Being; LINC;
Scottish Edge;
University of West of Scotland;
Women's Fund for Scotland;
Fife Council

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	Gillian Martin MSP
Deputy Convener	Jackie Baillie MSP
Secretary	Anne Meikle Women's Enterprise Scotland
Treasurer	Carolyn Currie Women's Enterprise Scotland


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.

No subscription charged.

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Gillian Martin MSP
Parliamentary address	M5.08 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	Telephone: 0131 348 6956