

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Tibet
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED
5 th October 2016
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
4 th October 2017
DATE OF PRECEDING AGM
5 th October 2016
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
2 nd November 2017
GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES
<u>5th October 2016 (Attendance: 2 MSPs, 24 non-MSPs):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGM and election of office bearers took place.• Guest speaker Mr Chonpel Tsering, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, thanked the Group for its work across the years.• Group discussion on the possibility of an exhibition in 2019, perhaps at the Scottish Parliament, on Tibet, with a focus on Scotland-Tibet connections.• The Group discussed the need to strike a balance between the political aspects of Tibet and displaying the culture and music of Tibet – and the meeting ended with a performance of Tibetan songs by 2 members of the group.
<u>11th January 2017 (Attendance: 3 MSPs, 17 non-MSPs):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An in-depth discussion was held on the potential exhibition. The Secretary, Dr Martin Mills, outlined possible funding sources and detailed potential sources of material.• Members of the Tibetan community in Scotland were keen to assist here.• Guest speaker Norman Baker, President of the Tibet Society, discussed its work and the importance of keeping Tibet and wider human rights issues on the public radar.• Group noted the Freedom House Index: ‘Tibet less free than Syria and North Korea’.• The Group then watched a short documentary, “We stand in solidarity with Larung Gar” which discusses the deportation of nuns from the Larung Gar monastery.• A Tibetan member spoke about the need within the community to preserve the Tibetan language, particularly in younger generations. He had launched a Tibetan language essay competition for under ten year olds which has received almost 200 responses.

19th April 2017 (Attendance: 2 MSPs, 15 non-MSPs):

- Update on proposed exhibition from Dr Martin Mills, who confirmed offers of material had been received from many organisations, including the National Museum of Scotland.
- David Hudson reported on the recent Uprising Day event in Edinburgh on 10th March.
- Guest speakers Ed and Marian Shoote gave a presentation on their recent bike tour in Tibet. The presentation and photographs were well-received by the Group.

21st June 2017 (Attendance: 1 MSP, 20 non-MSPs):

- Showing of "Akong: A Remarkable Life". Attended by invited guests from Samye Ling.

Other:

- The CPG website (www.scotlandtibet.wordpress.com) contains much information.
- Its regular "Tibet News" bulletin receives almost 500 hits each month from people in 47 countries and is the only such bulletin produced worldwide.
- The CPG publishes briefings on a range of important matters with another, '*Mass Relocations and Nomad Settlement on the Tibetan Plateau*', due for publication soon.
- Convener Linda Fabiani MSP wrote to the UK Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific expressing the Group's concerns of interference from the People's Republic of China Government regarding the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Linda Fabiani MSP, Scottish National Party
Ross Greer MSP, Scottish Green Party
Angus MacDonald MSP, Scottish National Party
Christina McKelvie MSP, Scottish National Party
Jeremy Balfour MSP, Scottish Conservative Party
Richard Lyle MSP, Scottish National Party
Willie Rennie MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrats

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Individuals	Dr Martin Mills - Secretary David Lloyd Hudson - Treasurer William Caola Bruce Clark Roger Eames Jackie Fordyce Linda Hendry Elizabeth Lindsey Laura Mackie Samantha May Iain Thom Kirsteen Currie Dr Sam Pehrson Sarah Schroeder Oskar Bengtsson Svenja Sender
Organisations	University of Aberdeen Scottish Centre for Himalayan Research United Nations of a Free Tibet Tibet Support Group Grampian

	Tibet Support Group Scotland Amnesty International University of St Andrews Edinburgh Interfaith Association
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GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Convener	Linda Fabiani MSP
Deputy Convener	Ross Greer MSP
Secretary	Dr Martin Mills
Treasurer	David Lloyd Hudson

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

The Group received €1000 from the International Campaign for Tibet to help cover general costs such as printing and hospitality. The Group spent £475 in the period 05/10/16-04/10/17.

The Secretary, Dr Mills, received £631.28 from the University of Aberdeen's Impact & Knowledge Exchange Fund in the same period which helped cover salary, travel, accommodation and subsistence. Dr Mills also spent ~£500 of his own salary to cover travel & accommodation costs.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

No subscription fee is charged.

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

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