

Minute of First meeting of the Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children

Wednesday 28th September 2016 at 1.45 pm in Room TG.20-21

1)Present

- Christina McKelvie MSP
- Claire Baker MSP
- John Finnie MSP
- Marsha Scott, Louise Johnson and Brenna Jessie- Scottish Women's Aid
- Rachel Adamson - Zero Tolerance
- Stephen Madill- Safer Families, City of Edinburgh Council
- Gillian Baker – solicitor, Domestic Abuse Transition Project, Stirling
- Nancy Lombard- academic, Glasgow Caledonian University
- Lily Greenan
- Catriona Kirkpatrick- Engender

2)Apologies

- **MSP members**
 - Claudia Beamish MSP
 - Johann Lamont MSP
 - Sandra White MSP
- **Non-MSP members**
 - Mhairi McGowan for ASSIST
 - Sandy Brindley for Rape Crisis Scotland
 - Dawn Fyfe for SAY Women
 - Jan Macleod for Women's Support Project

3) Confirmation of Name and purpose of Group

- The name of the Cross Party Group was re-confirmed as the “ *Cross Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children*”
- The Joint Convenors and members present agreed that the purpose of the CPG be refreshed and updated to reflect current work and strategic initiatives to end violence against women and children

4)Agreement on statement around membership requirements

The Joint Convenors and members present agreed that a requirement of joining is a commitment to supporting both the Scottish Government's “Equally Safe” VAW Strategy and the gendered analysis of violence against women that seats VAW within the context of women's inequality. Prospective members will be asked to confirm their agreement to this.

5)Confirmation of MSP Membership

There are currently five parties represented and therefore Group meets the requirements of the Code:

- Claudia Beamish MSP
- James Dornan MSP
- John Finnie MSP
- Rhoda Grant MSP
- Johann Lamont MSP
- Christina McKelvie MSP
- Gil Paterson MSP
- Tavish Scott MSP
- Sandra White MSP

6)Confirmation of Non MSP membership

The following have indicated that they wish to rejoin the CPG

- **Organisations**
 - ASSIST
 - Engender
 - Rape Crisis Scotland
 - SAY Women
 - Scottish Women's Aid
 - Women's Support Project
 - Zero Tolerance

- **Individuals**
 - Gillian Baker
 - Lily Greenan
 - Nancy Lombard
 - Stephen Madill

7) Election of Office Bearers:

The following were proposed and elected

- Joint Convenors- Christina McKelvie MSP and Claire Baker MSP – proposed by Louise Johnson, Scottish Women's Aid; seconded by John Finnie, MSP
- Deputy Convenor- Claudia Beamish MSP proposed by Louise Johnson, Scottish Women's Aid;seconded by John Finnie, MSP
- The meeting agreed that Scottish Women's Aid will act as the Secretariat for the Group.

8)Contact for the Group

Joint Convenors- Christina McKelvie MSP and Claire Baker MSP

9)Future meetings and business

- The meeting agreed that the next CPG will be convened during the 16 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women and that the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Scottish Government officials will be invited.
- To facilitate maximum attendance from members, particularly MSP members in terms of organising meetings around Parliamentary business, meetings will be held at 12.30pm – 2pm on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
- The newly appointed Lord Advocate and Solicitor General will also be similarly invited to a future meeting of the CPG.
- The next meeting's business will focus on setting priorities for the work of the CPG, which will include sexual violence, the proposed, new criminal offence of domestic abuse, the progress of "Equally Safe" and judicial training.
- Christina McIlvie MSP advised the CPG that she has been appointed Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee (formerly the Equal Opportunities Committee). The Committee is considering using the Concluding observations of the UN Committees on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Rights of the Child as a roadmap for Scotland.