

**The Scottish Parliament  
Cross Party Group on Palestine**

**26 October 2016**

**Minutes**

MSPs Present: Claudia Beamish, Ivan McKee and Ross Greer  
MSP apologies: Sandra White, James Dornan, John Finnie

28 members of public present

1. Vice Convener Claudia Beamish opened meeting noting apologies and asked the group for approval of Mahmoud Zwahre travel expenses which were agreed. Treasurer Phil Chetwynd (PC) also raised the issue of changes to the terms of banking for the CPG which were agreed.
2. Vice Convener introduced the speaker Mahmoud Zwahre (MZ) - Mahmoud is studying International Relations at the Coventry University and has been a leading member of the Al-Ma'sara village Popular Resistance Committee for many years. Mahmoud spoke of the Israeli policies that lead to what is happening currently and what can be done to increase the space for nonviolent resistance. He also spoke of what Palestinians expect from the international community in order to support the nonviolent resistance movement in Palestine and made a plea for the Scottish Parliament to play its part in a peaceful resolution. A lively Q&A session followed the presentation from MZ.

Discussion then lead to the role of the CPG and the role of MSPs in highlighting issues, Amanda Gordon agreed to pull together information on rules and regulations of CPG. Discussion also included how the CPG responds to issues and the role of the media.

3. Vice Convener then sought ideas for future agendas and there was unanimous support for the next meeting to cover the role and rules of the CPG and a discussion on anti-semitism which was suggested by the Treasurer and the following meeting would look at the Balfour Declaration which had been suggested by Wael Shawish from the Association of Palestinian Communities in Scotland and a talk from Dr Colin Cooper on the work they have been carrying out in Gaza.
4. AOCB

The Vice Convener highlighted the opening of the role of Secretary of the group and PC nominated Albie O'Neill seconded by Karen Bett.

The next meeting of the CPG will take place on Wednesday 8 February 2017 at 6pm.