

Cross Party Group on Tibet - minutes

First official meeting, parliamentary session 4

6 June 2012 – Holyrood CR4

Attendees: Linda Fabiani, Maureen Watt, Roderick Campbell, Kevin Stewart, Anne McTaggart, Alison Johnstone, Margaret Mitchell, Adam Ingram and thirty-one members of the public.

Apologies: Annabelle Ewing, Richard Baker, Marco Biagi.

Agenda

Welcome – Linda Fabiani

Update on HHDL's visit to Scotland – Victor Spence

Presentation on self-immolation among Tibetans - Dr. Martin Mills

Discussion and adoption of briefing paper on self-immolation

AoB / DoNM

Update on HHDL's visit to Scotland

Victor Spence of Edinburgh Interfaith Association provided an update to the Group on His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visit to Scotland 21-23 June this year. As reported in the previous minutes he will be visiting Edinburgh, Dundee and Inverness for public talks, is invited to lunch by the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament and is holding a private audience for the Tibetan community and supporters.

Presentation on self-immolation among Tibetans

Dr Martin Mills senior lecturer in social anthropology at Aberdeen University presented findings from his recent research into the dramatic rise of self-immolation acts among Tibetans.

Discussion and adoption of briefing paper on self-immolation

The CPG discussed a draft briefing paper on self-immolation circulated previously among the group and stakeholders for comment. It was agreed unanimously to adopt the paper as a CPG publication on the understanding that relatively minor amendments will be made in response to recent stakeholder comments, in particular the Central Tibetan Administration (Tibetan Government-in-Exile).

It was agreed to publish and promote the paper as soon as possible as this is a live issue. MSPs and other members agreed to promote the paper to the Westminster Foreign Affairs Select Committee, potential media, the EU MEP Intergroup on Tibet and others.

DoNM

26 September 2012