



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade

Annual General Meeting 2018: Minutes

Date: Tuesday 16 October 2018

Time: 17:00-18:00

Location: Room T, Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament, London. SW1A 2LW

Present (parliamentarians):

Sarah Champion MP

Ronnie Cowan MP

Lord McColl of Dulwich

Jess Phillips MP

Gavin Shuker MP

Wes Streeting MP

Apologies:

Fiona Bruce MP

Thangam Debbonaire MP

Carolyn Harris MP

Michael Tomlinson MP

Present (observers and guests):

Kat Banyard, UK Feminista

Louise Gleich, Care

Mia de Faoite

1. Welcome and apologies

Gavin Shuker MP welcomed parliamentarians, observers and guests.

2. Election of officers

The following parliamentarians were elected as officers of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade:

- Fiona Bruce MP (Vice-Chair)
- Sarah Champion MP (Chair)
- Ronnie Cowan MP (Vice-Chair)
- Thangam Debbonaire MP (Vice-Chair)
- Carolyn Harris MP (Vice-Chair)
- Lord McColl of Dulwich (Vice-Chair)
- Jess Phillips MP (Vice-Chair)
- Gavin Shuker MP (Vice-Chair)

Gavin Shuker MP resigned his role as Chair of the group, and Sarah Champion MP was duly unanimously elected as Chair for 2018/19. On behalf of the group, Sarah Champion MP led thanks to Gavin Shuker MP for his leadership of the APPG.

The group also unanimously re-appointed UK Feminista as Secretariat of the APPG on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade for 2018-2019.

3. Review of APPG activities 2017-18

An overview of the group's activities over the previous 12 months was provided.

The main focus of the group's work was conducting an inquiry into organised sexual exploitation. This was undertaken due to growing reports of organised crime groups sexually exploiting women around the country in so-called 'pop-up' brothels. The evidence collection phase entailed interviews with half of all police forces in England and Wales; accompanying police forces on brothel outreach visits; interviews with non-governmental organisations; oral evidence hearings; a Freedom of Information request issued to police forces; an open call for written evidence; and a literature review. The findings of the inquiry were published in the report, *Behind Closed Doors: Organised sexual exploitation in England and Wales*, which was launched in the Houses of Parliament on 21/5/18.

4. Income and expenditure statement (2017-18)

The group reviewed and approved the income and expenditure statement for 2017-18, included as Appendix A in this document.

5. Planning for 2018-19

The group discussed proposed activities for 2018/19 to further the group's aims and core mission of ending commercial sexual exploitation.

The group also re-affirmed the core principles of the group, which recognise: exchanging money, accommodation, employment, services or other goods in return for sex acts is sexual abuse and a form of commercial sexual exploitation; prostitution is a form of violence against women and both a cause and consequence of inequality between women and men; and the role of government is to end commercial sexual exploitation.

6. Talk by Mia de Faoite, survivor and activist

Mia de Faoite is an activist and survivor who spent six years in prostitution, exiting in 2010. Mia was a core partner in the successful Turn Off the Red Light campaign which resulted in the passing of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 in Ireland - which made it a criminal offence to purchase sex but not to sell sex.

Mia gave a talk the group about the successful campaign in Ireland to secure demand reduction legislation, as well as subsequent and ongoing activities to ensure its implementation.

7. ENDS

Appendix A

Income and expenditure statement for All-Party Parliamentary Groups

Name of group: All-Party Parliamentary Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade.

Period covered by this statement: 13/9/17-16/10/17

£

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| A. Balance brought forward from previous year: | 0 |
| B. Income received during the year: | |
| i. Membership subscriptions (parliamentarians) | 0 |
| ii. Monetary donations (including external subscriptions and sponsorship) | 0 |
| iii. Trading income | 0 |
| iv. Interest received | 0 |
| v. Other (please explain) | 0 |
| TOTAL income | 0 |

C. Expenditure during the year:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|
| i. Employment costs (salaries, NI, pensions costs) | 0 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---|
| ii. Costs of contractors and freelance staff | 0 |
| iii. Visits and events (UK) | 0 |
| iv. Visits and events (abroad) | 0 |
| v. Cost of generating income | 0 |
| vi. Office and communications costs | 0 |
| vii. Other (please explain) | |
| TOTAL expenditure | 0 |
| D. Balance carried forward (A+ total B-total C) | 0 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>E. Value of benefits in kind received from each source during the reporting year (in bands of up to £1,500; £1,501-£3,000; £3,001 to £4,500; £4,501 to £6,000 etc)</p> <p>Please itemise according to the source and band</p> | <p>UK Feminista: 13,501-15,000</p> <p>Itemised benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat services - Website start-up - Research report design - Printing - Catering |
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Signed by Chair of Group:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Date: 16.10.18