



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 29 June 2016, 5:00 pm, CR9

MINUTES

Those present: Ann Clwyd MP; Mark Durkan MP; Margaret Ferrier MP; Martyn Day MP; John McNally MP; Alison Thewliss MP; Lord Hylton; Baroness Stern; Office of Sarah Wollaston MP; Nicole Piché (PHRG Co-ordinator); Catherine Baker (PHRG Intern).

- 1. Apologies** – Dominic Grieve QC MP; Patrick Grady MP; Helen Hayes MP; Fiona Mactaggart MP; Lord Campbell Savours; Baroness Finlay; Lord Judd; Lord Rea.
- 2. Minutes from 2015 AGM were approved and follow-up provided.**
- 3. Election of Officers** – All current Officers were re-elected. Margaret Ferrier MP was elected joint Vice-Chair. Jeremy Corbyn MP's name will be deleted from the APPG Register, as he stood down as a joint Vice-Chair when he became leader of the opposition.
- 4. Main Activities and Events reviewed (see Annex attached at p.2).**
- 5. Tribute was paid to the PHRG founder and former vice-Chair, Lord Avebury, who died on 14 February this year.**

It was noted that the PHRG Chair and former joint Vice-Chair Jeremy Corbyn MP would be speaking at Lord Avebury's Memorial Service the following day. Further details to be posted on the PHRG website.

6. Review of Accounts and Sources of Funding

- Accounts for current financial year (distributed at meeting) presented by the PHRG Treasurer and approved by Members.
- Members thanked the Barrow Cadbury Trust for its long-standing support.
- Members were asked to continue exploring other potential sources of funding.

7. Staffing

The *PHRG Intern* was thanked for her work on a part-time basis during the year; her focus on communications, including social media outreach, had been very helpful. Members wished her the best in her new job. The PHRG will be interviewing for a new intern in September/October.

PHRG Co-ordinator's salary was reviewed (last review 2014) and 2% pay rise agreed.

8. Future Events, Activities and Priorities

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, 6 July, 10 a.m., IPU Rm – Joint PHRG and Africa APPG Parliamentary Panel Event – Human Rights in the Gambia;
- Wednesday, 13 July – Private Parliamentary Panel Event on Rule of Law in Iran;
- Tuesday, 19 July, 12:30 p.m., Rm O, PCH – Joint Indonesia APPG and PHRG Meeting on West Papua with Indonesian Ambassador to the UK.

ANNEX

Review of Main Activities and Events since AGM 2015

Preparation of Country Briefings for BGIPU Inward and Outward Delegations, and IPU Assembly bilateral meetings on: Afghanistan; Angola; Argentina; Bolivia; Burma; China; Cote D'Ivoire; Egypt; Estonia; Ethiopia; Georgia; Honduras; Iran; Iraq; Lebanon; Mexico; Mongolia; Nepal; Romania; Russia; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Turkey; Ukraine; Venezuela; Zambia.

Meetings organised with human rights defenders, lawyers, related NGO and IGO representatives, UK (esp. FCO) and foreign Government officials, academics and commentators, and participation at other meetings, on the following countries and issues:

Angola; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Burma; Cambodia; Chile; Colombia; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia, Guatemala; Honduras; Indonesia; Kenya, Kurds in the Middle East; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Iraqi Kurdistan; Malaysia; Maldives; Mauritania; Mexico; Nepal; North Korea; Pakistan; Palestine; Peru; Russia; Saudi Arabia; Sri Lanka; Syria; Turkey; USA; Uzbekistan; Venezuela; anti-corruption; arms trade; business and human rights; refugee crisis; street children; work of UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders; FCO Annual Human Rights Report; prevention of torture; role of UK Parliament and Parliamentarians in promoting respect for international human rights; role of APPGs in promoting respect for human rights; work and protection needs of Human Rights Defenders abroad.

On-Going:

- PHRG - Prepared ***weekly newsletter "Human Rights in the Houses"***;
- PHRG Parliamentary Meetings – Prepared briefings for meeting Chairs;
- Foreign Affairs Committee – Provided information for use in reports;
- IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians – Attendance at meetings and follow-up work on cases;
- BGIPU – Preparation of briefings for outward and inward delegations, and bilateral meetings at IPU Assemblies, and attendance at IPU Assemblies;
- Social Media Out-reach – Including tweets and web posts;
- EDMs on matters of particular concern, including in the last year on: Bahrain, China, Egypt, Eritrea, Malaysia, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, women HRDs, treatment of Yazidi women and minorities by ISIL.

Highlights include:

JULY

- Parliamentary Meeting with Public Defender from ***Georgia***;
- Parliamentary Meeting with UK Ambassador to ***Eritrea***;
- Parliamentary Panel Event on ***Statelessness in the Middle East***;

SEPTEMBER

- Parliamentary Panel Event on ***Migration/Refugee Crisis***;
- Parliamentary Panel event on ***Sri Lanka***;

OCTOBER

- Joint Parliamentary Meeting with ***UN High Commissioner for Human Rights***;
- Parliamentary Meeting with trade unionist from ***Colombia***;
- Attendance at ***IPU Assembly and IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians Meeting***;
- Parliamentary Meeting with human rights defenders from ***Colombia***;
- Parliamentary Meeting with ***women human rights defenders from Mexico and the Philippines***;
- Joint Parliamentary Meeting on human rights of ***Street Children***;

NOVEMBER

- Parliamentary Meeting with political cartoonist from ***Malaysia***;

- Joint Parliamentary Meeting with volunteer human rights monitor based in **Palestine**;
- Parliamentary Meeting with Parliamentary Delegation from **Indonesia**;
- Parliamentary Panel Event on Statelessness in the **Dominican Republic**;

DECEMBER

- Wilton Park Dialogue with FCO, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, and others on **human rights defenders**;
- Parliamentary Panel Event **Defending the Defenders**, with UN Special Rapporteur on HRDs, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, FCO Head of Human Rights & Democracy Department, Chair of Bar Human Rights Committee, and HRD from Egypt;
- Joint Parliamentary Reception to mark **International Human Rights Day**;
- Parliamentary Meeting with human rights defender and journalist from **Honduras**;

JANUARY

- Joint Parliamentary Meeting re. **International Drug Control Policy**, and the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs;
- Parliamentary Meeting with anti-slavery activists from **Mauritania**;
- Attendance at **IPU Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians** meeting;
- Meetings with officials at **Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**;

FEBRUARY

- Parliamentary Meeting with opposition MPs from **Malaysia**;
- Joint Parliamentary Meeting with **Yazidi woman** who had been captured by ISIL/Daesh;
- Parliamentary Meeting with human rights lawyer from **Colombia**;

MARCH

- Joint Parliamentary Meeting with lawyers from **China**;
- Parliamentary Panel Event with EU Special Envoy for Colombia; Colombian Justice Minister; Colombian Ambassador to the UK and others on achieving a sustainable peace in **Colombia**;
- Parliamentary Meeting with indigenous Human Rights Defender from **Guatemala**;
- Parliamentary Panel Event re. human rights violations in **Saudi Arabia**;

APRIL

- Parliamentary Meeting with defenders from **India, Mongolia and USA**;
- Parliamentary Meeting with human rights defender from **Honduras**;
- Parliamentary Meeting with human rights defender from **Egypt**;
- Joint Parliamentary Meeting on **Street Children** – importance of legal identity in accessing rights;
- Parliamentary Meeting with human rights defenders from **Colombia**;
- Parliamentary Meeting with ICRC representative working in **Somalia**;

MAY

- Parliamentary Meeting with **Mauritanian Chargé** to the UK, re. **slavery**;
- Parliamentary Meeting with human rights defenders from **Chile**;
- Joint Parliamentary Meeting on **Dalit rights** worldwide;

JUNE

- In-depth analysis of **FCO Annual Human Rights Report**;
- Parliamentary Meeting on conflict in **Yemen** and UK arms exports to **Saudi Arabia**;
- Joint Parliamentary Meeting re. reconciliation and accountability in **Sri Lanka**, and implementation of UN Human Rights Council resolution 30/1;
- Parliamentary Lunchtime Roundtable Event with human rights defenders from **Colombia**.