

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017****Wednesday, 12 July, 5 pm, Committee Room 19****MINUTES**

In attendance: Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP; Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP; Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP; David Drew MP; Lord Campbell-Savours; Lord Judd; Earl of Sandwich; Lord Stunnett; Nicole Piché (PHRG Co-ordinator/Legal Advisor)

1. **Apologies** – Sarah Wollaston MP; Catherine West MP; Andy Slaughter MP; Lucy Frazer QC MP; Brendan O'Hara MP; Baroness Stern.
2. **Minutes from 2016 AGM (see Annex I) approved.**
3. **Election of Officers** - The following Officers were elected: **Chair: Ann Clwyd MP; Vice-Chair: Dominic Grieve QC MP; Treasurer: Stephen Timms MP; Secretary: Baroness Stern**
Dr. Sarah Wollaston MP had asked to stand down as Secretary but continue being involved in PHRG activities.
4. **Main Activities and events since last AGM (see Annex II) reviewed.**
5. **Review of Accounts and Sources of Funding**
 - Accounts for current financial year (distributed at meeting) presented by PHRG Treasurer and approved by Members.
 - Officers signed Resolution in connection with election of new Treasurer, to be sent to the Co-op bank to allow for change of bank signatory. (See copy at Annex III).
 - Officers also formally accepted PHRG's assets and liabilities, and financial records, as at date of dissolution on 02.05.17, on behalf of newly reconstituted PHRG (as per new guidance from Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards); and signed relevant Resolution (see Annex IV).
 - Members noted that Barrow Cadbury Trust had provided another restricted two-year grant (towards cost of the Co-ordinator/Legal Advisor's salary) and thanked Barrow Cadbury Trust for its long-standing support, without which the PHRG could not carry out its work.
 - Members asked to continue exploring other potential sources of funding.
6. **Staffing**

New part-time PHRG intern/communications consultant thanked her for her work since November. PHRG Co-ordinator/Legal Advisor also thanked for her work.
7. **Future Events, Activities and Priorities discussed.**

Upcoming events:

 - Wednesday, 12 July, 6 pm, CR6 – **Panel Event on the Lake Chad Crisis**, with H.E. Ambassador Matthew Rycroft, UK Permanent Representative to the UN in New York;
 - Thursday, 13 July, 9 am, W3 – Meeting with **UK Ambassador to Libya**, H.E. Peter Millett to discuss on the political and human rights situation in Libya.
 - Request for a joint meeting with the Dalit APPG.
 - Other possible future events put forward.
8. **A.O.B.**

PHRG Officers thanked former Officers and members for their work on behalf of, and support for, PHRG – especially *Mark Durkan, former Treasurer*, involved in almost all aspects of PHRG's activities; and *Margaret Ferrier, former joint Vice-Chair*, particularly interested in issues relating to human rights violations in the Middle East. They also thanked *Dr. Sarah Wollaston MP*, for her work as Secretary, though she will continue working with PHRG.

The new Secretary, Baroness Stern, to sign above Resolutions after the meeting.

FROM 5:30 pm – private off-the-record briefing by H.E. UK Ambassador to the UN, Matthew Rycroft.

ANNEX II

Review of Main Activities and Events since AGM 2016

Preparation of Country Briefings for BGIPU Inward and Outward Delegations, and IPU Assembly bilateral meetings on: Afghanistan; Argentina; Bangladesh; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Dominican Republic; Ethiopia; the Gambia; Hungary; Iran; Iraq; Japan; Jordan; Kosovo; Lebanon; Philippines; Poland; South Korea; Sri Lanka; Turkey; Uruguay; Venezuela.

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:

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Balkans, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Central Asia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, USA, Yemen, civilian protection, democratic strengthening, genocide prevention, work of and challenges faced by Human Rights Defenders, tackling modern slavery, prisoners of conscience, refugees, regional Parliamentary human rights networks in the Commonwealth, shrinking civil society space, torture prevention, rule of law, freedom of religion or belief.

Tabled EDMs on: Turkey, Mauritania, The Gambia, Syria, The Philippines, Libya, Nepal, Human Rights Day 2016, World Press Freedom Day.

On-Going:

- PHRG - Prepared *weekly newsletter "Human Rights in the Houses"*;
- PHRG Parliamentary Meetings and Panel events – Prepared briefings for meeting Chairs;
- Foreign Affairs Committee and Committee on Arms Export Controls – 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 Assembly;
- Social Media Out-reach – Including tweets and web posts;

Highlights include:

JULY

- Presentation about the work of the PHRG to House staff at a panel event on *"Strengthening Parliamentary Capacity for the Realisation of Human Rights"*;
- Parliamentary Panel Event on *Human Rights in the Gambia*;
- Participation in a practitioners' review of the curriculum content of the *MA in Understanding and Securing Human Rights*, organised by the Institute of Commonwealth Studies;
- Joint Parliamentary Panel Event on *Challenges to Rule of Law in Iran*;
- Joint Parliamentary Meeting with *the Indonesian Ambassador to the UK – with a focus on the situation in West Papua*;

SEPTEMBER

- Article by the PHRG Chair in the CPA Journal *The Parliamentarian* on *"Parliamentarians' Role in Defending Human Rights"*;
- Parliamentary Meeting with *Kenyan Human Rights Defender*;

OCTOBER

- Joint Parliamentary Panel Event *Women's empowerment and role of private sector in development & responsible business*;
- Joint Parliamentary Panel Event on *Challenges Facing Rule of Law in Ethiopia*;
- Parliamentary meeting with *human rights defenders from Indonesia and Brazil*;

- Attendance at *IPU Assembly and IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians Meeting*;

NOVEMBER

- Parliamentary Meeting on *Effects of Solitary Confinement, highlighting the case of the Angola 3*
- Parliamentary Event and Reception on *Human Rights Implications of International Drug Control Policies*;
- Parliamentary Roundtable on *Bahrain and the 5th anniversary of the publication of the BICI Report*;
- Joint Parliamentary Panel Event on *Where next for South Sudan?*;

DECEMBER

- Parliamentary Meeting on *Slavery in Mauritania, and continuing reprisals against anti-slavery activists*;
- *Annual Parliamentary International Human Rights Day Event and Reception, featuring AI UK's Write for Rights Campaign*;
- *Article by PHRG Chair in The Times newspaper on "Human Rights Must Be at the Heart of Foreign Policy"*;
- *Adjournment Debate by PHRG Chair to mark International Human Rights Day*;
- Parliamentary Meeting with *Malaysian Activists*;

JANUARY

- Attendance at *IPU Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians meeting*;
- Meetings with officials at *Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*;
- Parliamentary Panel Event on *Conflict and Human Rights under President Duterte in the Philippines*;

FEBRUARY

- Parliamentary Meeting with FCO Minister Tobias Ellwood MP on *The Importance of Civilian Protection in the Middle East, with a focus on conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Iraq*;
- Parliamentary Screening of Ross Kemp documentary: *"Libya's Migrant Hell"*;
- Joint Parliamentary Panel Event on *The Persecution of Minorities in Iran*;

MARCH

- Parliamentary Roundtable Discussion with *Jineth Bedoya Lima, Colombian journalist/Human Rights campaigner*;
- Parliamentary Roundtable Meeting on *'Iranian New Year: Brits in Evin Prison'*;
- Joint Parliamentary Panel Event on *the role of the UN Universal Periodic Review in assessing the UK's human rights record, and that of other countries, and the role Parliamentarians can play in this process*;
- Joint Parliamentary Roundtable Discussion on *The Colombian Peace Process: Current challenges and the role of the international community*
- Parliamentary Roundtable Discussion with *Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*;

APRIL

- Parliamentary Meeting with *Sheikh Maytham al-Salman, Bahraini Human Rights Defender*;
- Joint Parliamentary Panel Event on *"The Liberation of Mosul and its Aftermath"*;

JUNE

- Presentation to *John Smith Trust Fellows* from Ukraine/Belarus/Russia/Moldova/Georgia on the work of the PHRG and other work on international human rights in the UK Parliament.
- Parliamentary Meeting with *Nurul Izzah Anwar MP, from Malaysian Parliament, and daughter of jailed Malaysian opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim*.