



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Tuesday, 26 June, 10 am, W2

## MINUTES

**In attendance:** Ann Clwyd MP; Baroness Stern; Stephen Timms MP; Baroness Anelay; David Drew MP; Lord Dholakia; Lord Hylton; Nicole Piché; Stef Monaco.

- 1. Apologies** – Dominic Grieve QC MP; Martyn Day MP; Helen Goodman MP; Caroline Lucas MP; Liz McInnes MP; Baroness Cox; Baroness D'Souza; Baroness Finlay; Baroness Hamwee; Lord Judd.
- 2. Minutes from 2017 AGM approved (see Annex I) and follow-up discussed.**
- 3. Current officers re-elected.**  
The Officers of the Group: Chair: Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP; Vice Chair: Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP; Treasurer: Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP; Secretary: Baroness Stern
- 4. Main Activities and Events since last AGM reviewed (see Annex II attached).**

**Highlights:**

- Joint RT on Social Reconstruction in Iraq;
- Joint Meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers;
- Joint Multi-Panel seminar on Implementing Colombian Peace Accords to Support Women;
- Joint Meeting with HRDs and CSOs from Colombia and the Philippines about negative HR impacts of mining operations on local communities;
- Joint International HR Day Reception in Speaker's House;
- Westminster Hall Debate on International HRs Day and the UK's Role in Promoting HRs;
- Meeting with delegation of expert representatives from communities in Colombia, Liberia and Indonesia re. HR impacts of deforestation;
- Meeting with UN Assistant Secretary-General for HR, Andrew Gilmour;
- Meeting on Legacy of 2012 Marikana Killings in South Africa;
- Joint meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on HRs in the OPTs;
- Joint Lunchtime RT on Post-Brexit investment in Latin America: implications for HRs/HRDs;
- Off-the-record RT on Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh) – with local activists, FCO and DFID;
- Joint Panel Event on Abuse of Blasphemy Laws;
- Meeting with Malaysian PM-designate Anwar Ibrahim (after years campaigning for his release);
- Joint Panel Event on current challenges in armed conflict, and state accountability in urban warfare.

The Officers and members present wished to record their thanks to the PHRG for a wide-ranging and highly successful programme of work over the past 12 months.

- 5. Approval of this year's Accounts and Review of Sources of Funding**  
Accounts for current financial year (*distributed at meeting*) presented by the Treasurer and approved. All the information in the accounts also set out in Income and Expenditure Statement. Barrow Cadbury Trust thanked for their on-going support for the post of Co-ordinator/Legal Advisor.
- 6. Staffing**  
Stef Monaco, current P-T intern/communications consultant (since January), introduced to Officers/members present, and thanked for her work during the year.  
Nicole Piché, Co-ordinator/Legal Advisor, thanked for her work during the year; her salary rise of 2.3% approved (as no salary increase last year; in line with last approved BCT grant submission and project progress report, and further to discussions with Chair and Treasurer).
- 7. Future Events, Activities and Priorities**  
**3 July** - Joint RT on Increased Repression & Forced Assimilation in Xinjiang (China);  
**4 July** – Meeting with HRW expert on Cambodia;  
**11 July** – Joint Meeting on Grave Violations Against Children in Conflict;  
**18 July** – Joint Meeting on Juvenile Executions Across the World.
- 8. A.O.B.**  
Agreed to consider events on Ethiopia (jointly with relevant APPG) – with release of Andy Tsege noted, Turkey, Nepal and Iraq.



## ANNEX II

### Review of Main Activities and Events since AGM 2017

**Preparation of Country Briefings for BGIPU Inward and Outward Delegations, and IPU Assembly bilateral meetings on:** Afghanistan; Albania; Angola; Argentina; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia & Hercegovina; Burma; Chile; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Egypt; Ethiopia; Guatemala; Iceland; Iran; Iraq; Japan; Jordan; Liberia; Madagascar; The Maldives; Mongolia; Nepal; Norway; Peru; The Philippines; Russia; Serbia; Spain; South Korea; Turkey; Venezuela; Zimbabwe.

**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:** Bangladesh; Burma; Cambodia; Central Asia; China; Colombia; The Commonwealth; Egypt; former Soviet Union; The Gambia; Honduras; Hong Kong; Iran; Iraq; Kyrgyzstan; Latin America; Libya; Middle East; Nepal; Nicaragua; Pakistan; Peru; The Philippines; Russia; Sierra Leone; South Korea; Sudan; Syria; Vietnam; Tibet; Turkey; Uzbekistan; Western Balkans; Yemen; Zimbabwe;

Civil Society Space; Counter-Terrorism; Corruption; Dalits; Death Penalty; Democracy Promotion; Disability Inclusion; FCO Annual Human Rights and Democracy Report; FCO Programme/Project Funding and accountability/transparency issues; Freedom of Religion or Belief; Funding for HR Organisations (including the PHRG); Genocide Prevention; Guantanamo Bay; HRD Protection and Support; Intelligence-sharing; International Humanitarian Law; Lawyers at Risk; LGBT-related HR issues; Prisoners of Conscience; Protection for Interpreters in Conflict Zones; PSVI; Refugees; UK Consular Assistance; UN Human Rights Mechanisms and need for UK support; 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Declaration on HRDs;

**Communications to Government Ministers/officials on:** Bahrain; Chechnya (Russia); Gaza; Guatemala; Iraq; Lebanon; Libya; Malaysia; OPTs; Western Sahara;

Consular cases (detained UK nationals or dual nationals); Executions (Iran and Saudi Arabia); Government Review of UK National Contact Point Steering Board for the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises; IDPs; PSVI; Rohingya; Turkish incursion in Syria; UK arms exports to Israel; UK Consular Assistance; UK Funding for HR Programmes/Mechanisms; UNGA Resolution on HRDs;

**Tabled EDMs on:** Bahrain; Burma - Flight of Rohingya; Cambodia; Colombian HRDs; Egypt; Iraq; Malaysia; The Philippines; Saudi Arabia; Sri Lanka; Syria - Chemical Weapons Attacks; Turkey; Enforced Disappearances; UK Arms Sales to Repressive Regimes; UK's Modern Slavery initiative;

#### **On-Going:**

- PHRG – Preparation of weekly newsletter "*Human Rights in the Houses*";
- PHRG Parliamentary Meetings and Panel events – Preparation of briefings for meeting Chairs;
- Foreign Affairs Committee and Committee on Arms Export Controls – Provision of information for use in reports;
- BGIPU – Preparation of briefings for outward and inward delegations, and bilateral meetings at IPU Assemblies, and attendance at IPU Assembly;
- IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians – Follow-up work on cases;
- Social Media Out-reach – Including tweets and web posts;



## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES:

### JULY

- Meeting with UK Ambassador to *Libya*;

### OCTOBER

- Joint Meeting with HRDs from *Brazil, Colombia and USA* on communities negatively impacted by mining communities;
- Meeting with HRDs from *Mexico*;
- Meeting with members of *Qatar* National HR Commission;
- Participation on Panel on *Iraq* with presentation on HR of women and minorities;

### NOVEMBER

- Joint RT on Social Reconstruction in *Iraq*;
- Talk to John Smith Fellows from *Central Asia* about Parliament's work on HR;
- Joint Meeting with *UN* Special Rapporteur on the *independence of judges and lawyers*;
- Joint Multi-Panel event/seminar on Implementing *Colombian* Peace Accords to Support Women;
- Joint Meeting with HRDs and CSOs from *Colombia and the Philippines* about negative impacts of mining operations on local communities;

### DECEMBER

- Meeting with HRD from *Nepal*;
- Joint *International HR Day* Reception in Speaker's House;
- Joint Panel Event on Human Rights in *Iran*;
- Westminster Hall Debate on *International HR Day* and UK's Role in Promoting HR;

### JANUARY

- Talk to Parliamentary Delegation from the *Gambia* about Parliament's work on HR;
- Meeting with HRD from *Egypt*;
- Meeting with HRD from *Honduras*;
- Joint Panel Event on *UK Consular Services* – re. protecting British Nationals from HR violations abroad;
- Joint Parliamentary Panel Discussion on the *Colombian* Road to Peace;

### FEBRUARY

- Joint Meeting with FCO Minister on *Cambodia*;
- Joint Meeting with HRDs from *Mexico*;
- Participation on Panel on *Business and HR* with presentation on PHRG's work in this field (and importance of its work on HRD support and protection);
- Meeting with delegation of expert representatives from communities in *Colombia, Liberia and Indonesia* re. HR impacts of deforestation;
- Meeting with *UN* Assistant Secretary-General for HR, Andrew Gilmour;

### MARCH

- Meeting on Legacy of 2012 Marikana Killings in *South Africa*;
- Meeting with HRDs from York University;
- Meeting with HRD/HR Lawyer from *Colombia*;
- Joint meeting with *UN* Special Rapporteur on HR in the *OPTs*;

### APRIL

- Joint Meeting with Lawyer working with *Guantanamo Bay* detainees;
- Joint Lunchtime RT on Post-Brexit investment in *Latin America*: implications for HRs/HRDs;
- Joint Meeting with HR Lawyer from *Colombia*;
- Meeting with former MP from *Bahrain*;

### MAY

- RT on *Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh)* – with local activists, FCO and DFID;
- Meeting with HRD from *Colombia*;
- Joint Panel Event on *Abuse of Blasphemy Laws*;
- Meeting with UK High Commissioner to *Malaysia*;
- Meeting with UK Ambassador to *Cambodia*;

### JUNE

- Talk to John Smith Fellows from *former Soviet Union* about Parliament's work on HR;
- Meeting with PM-designate Anwar Ibrahim from *Malaysia* (after campaigning for his release);
- Joint Meeting on 'Why is *Tajikistan* imprisoning journalists?';
- Joint Panel Event on Current challenges in *armed conflict*, and state accountability in urban warfare.