

APPG on Poverty: Minutes

Tuesday 11th January, 2022 at 2pm

Zoom

Attendees: Baroness Ruth Lister (Co-Chair), Kevin Hollinrake MP (Co-Chair), Ashley McLean (Poverty Alliance), Zhané Edwards (Co-Secretariat, CPAG), Sara Ogilvie (Co-Secretariat, CPAG), Dr Zubaida Haque (Co-Secretariat, The Equality Trust), Sophi Berridge (Co-Secretariat, The Equality Trust), and Danny Magill (Co-Secretariat, The Equality Trust).

1) Welcome by Co-Chair, Baroness Ruth Lister

2) Introduction of new members of The Equality Trust who will be working on the APPG as Secretariat

3) Discussion of Kevin Hollinrake MP stepping down as Co-Chair

- Kevin will approach Conservative colleagues to see if anyone is interested in becoming Chair.
- Kevin agreed to stay on as Co-Chair until a replacement is found.
- Zubaida suggested approaching MPs from the North West as this region has been particularly affected by COVID-19.
 - **ACTION:** Secretariat to think of list of Conservative MPs to replace Kevin as co-chair and send finalised list to Kevin to contact, having first checked with Ruth.

4) Ashley McLean, Policy and Parliamentary Officer, Poverty Alliance, speaks about a potential joint session with the APPG and other Cross Party Groups in Wales and Scotland

- Ashley proposed holding a joint event with all three cross party groups (CPGs) on the topic of UC.
- Ashley suggested that the event could be hosted by the APPG and CPGs but then have smaller community groups speak, or have an event with just the three groups.
- Sara suggested rather than looking at UC, the event could compare different national policies and their impact on poverty, e.g. universal free school meals, doubling of the Scottish Child Payment.
- Ruth highlighted that there is an APPG on UC and so this group would need to be included if the event were to be about UC.
- Zubaida proposed a session about social security as a whole, including addressing issues such as the two-child limit and child benefit.
- Zubaida also raised the issue of rising energy prices, inflation, taxation and cost of living, which is very topical and current.
- Ruth asked whether there was a similar CPG in Northern Ireland.
 - Danny recommended reaching out to the Child Poverty Alliance in NI.
 - **ACTION:** Ashley to send an email to Sara, who will pass on CPAG's NI contacts.
- Ruth proposed a joint-session on child poverty given the nation's different approaches to child poverty including from a children's rights perspective.
- Sophi raised that Scotland and Wales have enacted the socio-economic duty and a possible event could be to look at the impact of this.

- Zubaida raised issue of housing and the impact on poverty levels.
 - Ruth agreed the APPG could do some work on this in the future, but might be a bit too soon to do work on this with the other CPGs.
- Ruth put her preference as to do an event on child poverty which might include a conversation on targets and best practices of national policies.
- It was agreed to go ahead with such a meeting on the assumption that other officers would be in agreement,

5) Follow-up from the meeting with the APLE Collective

- Ruth explained the proposal which is to hold an annual session in collaboration with APLE on the UN International Day of the Eradication of Poverty (UNIDEP)
- **ACTION:** Zhané to send a copy of the recording of the APLE Collective session to Zubaida and Sara.
- **ACTION:** All Officers who object to working with the APLE Collective to let Zhané know. If no response, it will be assumed that Officers are in agreement with doing work on the UNIDEP with APLE.

6) Discussion of joint letter with JRF about the Employment Bill

- Zhané explained JRF's proposal to write a joint letter to the government on the issue of an Employment Bill.
- Sara responded that the APPG could coordinate the letter with the APPG's own report and recommendations.
- Ruth agreed and said once the report is published, the APPG can decide what it wants to do with it and if a joint letter would be appropriate at that time.
- Zubaida said the letter might be better if from multiple civil society organisations rather than just solely JRF and the APPG.
- Ruth thought it might not be appropriate for an APPG to sign such a letter and it would be better from JRF and other organisations.
- Ruth wants a clearer proposal from JRF.
 - **ACTION:** Zhané to email JRF and ask for a written proposal regarding the joint letter.

7) Review and publication of the in-work poverty report

- Ruth thanked Zhané for putting together the first draft of the report.
- Ruth suggested holding an Officer-only meeting to discuss the report's recommendations as well as to elect the new co-chair and decide the APPG's work programme for the year.
 - **ACTION:** Zhané to re-send a copy of the first draft of the report to Officers for review
 - **ACTION:** All Officers to send detailed points and other comments to Zhané by Friday 4th February EOP
 - **ACTION:** Zhané to start work on a second draft of the report for circulation to officers.

8) AOB

- Ruth added increasing parliamentary engagement to the next meeting's agenda. We will also need to discuss future work as it was not possible to do so fully at this meeting.

Meeting closed at 3pm.