

## **Cross Party Group on Malawi**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

17.30 – 19.00

### **Attended:**

1. Clare Adamson MSP
2. Alex Fergusson MSP
3. Liam McArthur MSP
4. Jamie McGrigor MSP
5. Siobhan McMohan MSP
6. Ann McTaggart MSP
7. Elaine Smith MSP
8. Maureen Watt MSP
9. Kerry Adrain (Dundee University)
10. Mario Aguilar (St Andrews University)
11. Keith Bohannon (Scotland Malawi Partnership)
12. Rachael Bruce (Dundee University)
13. Nikki Bruce (Enable Scotland)
14. Colin Cameron (SMP Member)
15. Daniel Dolan (Dundee University)
16. Rhoda Downie (Dundee University)
17. Moira Dunworth (Mamie Martin Fund)
18. Martyn Edelsten (SMP Member)
19. Louise Fagan (Dundee University)
20. Jackie Farr (Scotland Malawi Partnership)
21. Julie Gemmill (Woodford Foundation)
22. Ellen Mainprize (Dundee University)
23. Kristina Manson (Dundee University)
24. Laura McGuigan (Dundee University)
25. Matthews Mtumbuka (Malawi Scotland Partnership)
26. Jane Salmonson (CBM UK)
27. David Stevenson (SMP Member)
28. Jack Thompson SMP Director
29. Peter West (Honorary Consul)
30. Margaret Wheatley (Enable Scotland)
31. Chris White (Mental Health Foundation)

### **Welcome and minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as accurate.

Apologies were made from: Annabelle Ewing MSP, Jackie Baillie MSP, Tamara Mura (APSTAR), Claudia Beamish MSP, Colin Beattie MSP and Joyce Phiri.

### **AGM: Election / confirmation of Office Bearers**

The following were elected for office:

**Convener:** Maureen Watt MSP (Proposed: David Hope-Jones, Seconded: Peter West)

**Vice-convener:** Alex Ferguson MSP (Proposed: Jamie McGrigor MSP, Seconded: David Hope-Jones), Liam McArthur MSP (Proposed: Jamie McGrigor MSP, Seconded: David Hope-Jones)

Siobhan MacMohan MSP and Christina McKelvie MSP were also proposed, in absentia, to the role of Vice-Conveners (Proposed: Jamie McGrigor, Seconded: David Hope-Jones). The SMP will approach to confirm they're happy with this appointment before the next meeting.

**Secretary:** Scotland Malawi Partnership (Proposed: Maureen Watt, Seconded: Peter West)

### **5.50pm Presentation and video from CBM, Enable Scotland and Mental Health Foundation: *"Increasing Participation of Disabled People in Malawi"***

Speakers:

Chris White, Mental Health Foundation

Margaret Wheatley, Enable

Nikki Bruce, Enable  
Jane Salmonson, CBM UK

Jane introduced Chris and Margaret who presented on their work with FEDOMA, the Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA).

Chris explained that the project was funded by the Scottish Government for three years, working in 3 target districts - Lilongwe, Salima and Nkhota-kota. The project involved a partnership between Enable Scotland, Mental Health Foundation, CBM and FEDOMA

The aims of the project are as follows, to:

- Empower Disabled People's Organisations to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities
- Increase their participation in the development activities with and will effectively interact with National Government and decentralised government structures.
- Through Collective Advocacy strengthen participation in civic society

The project outcomes included:

- Increased lobbying for inclusion of disabled people at district level
- Establish district disability forums to increase the participation of disabled people on Area Development Committees and Village Development Committees
- Support awareness raising of disability rights in local communities through outreach education activities by persons with disabilities.
- Increase awareness of human rights issues amongst persons with disabilities
- Develop training for trainers on disability rights and mainstreaming advocacy
- Support FEDOMA to identify and develop three key campaign areas
- Develop an advocacy tool kit to assist the work of FEDOMA, Government, civil society towards mainstreaming disability issues in development project

The aim of the first year activities was to lobby for inclusion of persons with disabilities; identify key advocacy issues and barriers to inclusion and develop an Advocacy Toolkit in relation to mainstreaming disability in development activities.

The first year activities included:

- Two Fact finding visits
- Meetings with Government Agencies and National NGO's
- 3 meetings with District Authorities, local government agencies and NGO's in the 3 target districts.
- 6 village meetings with for persons with disabilities across the three districts.

The aim of the second year activities was to increase awareness of disability rights and advocacy, and to build confidence and skills of persons with disabilities at local level.

To meet this aim the second year activities involved:

- Following the first visit developed training material to provide initial capacity building training on disability rights and advocacy
- Delivered capacity building training across 3 districts attended by 96 people with disabilities
- FEDOMA/MACHOA carried out activities to develop future District Disability Forums
- Capacity building sessions enabled people to grow their understanding of disability issues.
- Identified issues and barriers to be addressed to in order to increase participation.

The third year aimed to support awareness raising of disability rights in local communities through outreach education activities by persons with disabilities, support FEDOMA to identify and develop three key strategic campaign areas and to support organisational and structural change within the relevant organisations

To this end the third year activities included:

- Focus on Training of Trainers
- Representatives from the three areas – natural leaders .
- Develop skills and an action plan to deliver awareness raising program in own locality
- Links to Cultural change action plan
- Malawi Advocacy Task Force established
- Three areas now represented as well as a range of DPOs
- Districts supported and coordinated with national activities

### **The Developing Action Plans were outlined – 5 Strategic Areas were identified**

- Cultural change:
  - Promote positive image of people with disability through a national campaign
  - Pilot and demonstrate in 3 districts the effectiveness of disability awareness training on root causes of stigma
- Inclusive education
  - To lobby for increased availability of teachers and learning materials for learners affected by disability
  - To lobby for development of a career pathway for specialist teachers to retain them as specialists
  - To advocate for the development of a national inclusive curriculum for both primary and secondary level
  - Lobby for training (in service) for mainstream teachers to support learners affected by disability.
- Health service:
  - To engage health professionals in the goal of removing the stigmatisation of disabled people
  - To equip Health staff to provide accurate, expert advise on a range of disability and health issues.
  - To develop an awareness of the need for medical help and appropriate health interventions.
  - To ensure the access to medication and medical support
  - To lobby for system of Pas
- Economic empowerment
  - To lobby for cooperatives or other financial institutions
  - (village savings and loan schemes) within reach in 3 districts.
  - Access to support with business planning
  - Equity in assessment of business plans
  - and loan applications for people with disabilities
  - Build capacity of people with disability to have own business
- Accessibility
  - To have Accessibility on all policy development agendas in every government department

The next stage of the project would be to look at what structures are in place to advance the above strategic advocacy areas. FEDOMA are currently exploring a number of possibilities.

### **6.10pm Q and A with Enable Scotland, Mental Health Foundation and CBM UK representatives**

A number of questions were asked relating to inclusive education in Malawi, cultural attitudes and coordination of efforts among organisations working in this area. Matthews Mtumbuka (Malawi Scotland Partnership) also shared his perspective that things were getting better for people with disabilities in Malawi; from TV programmes with sign language interpreters, ramps into public building, to braille on Reserve Bank notes.

On the back of this discussion it was suggested that the SMP host a meeting inviting all those in Scotland, with links to Malawi, working in the area of disability to share experience, contacts and learning.

### **6.30pm Update on Malawi Scotland Partnership- Matthews Mtumbuka**

Matthews Mtumbuka, Chair of the Scotland Malawi Partnership, visiting Scotland for the SMP AGM, gave thanks for the special relationship between Scotland and Malawi. He reflected on the strength of the links built on equality. He paid particular attention to the 100+ action schools involved in links, and the significant impact the David Livingstone Bicentenary Scholarships (funded by the Scottish Government) had had on students in Malawi.

The Malawi Scotland Partnership continues to grow from strength to strength, with now around 230 members, meeting regularly at regional and cluster level, as well as nationally. MaSP has also been instrumental in facilitating meetings between Strand Leads and Scottish Government funded projects.

### **6.45pm AOB**

Dr Peter West, Honorary Consul to Malawi updated the group on the many activities that had taken place over the summer including:

- Malawi 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in London, where Colin Cameron was a guest of honour,
- Malawi 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Glasgow, with special guests the Black Missionaries,
- The Commonwealth Games and support for Team Malawi,
- Launch of the Lake of Stars,
- Pop Up Malawi House to show support for Team Malawi

Dr West also explained that H.E Mr Bernard Sande, Malawi High Commissioner to the UK, is shortly to be succeeded by Dr Hetherwick Ntaba.

Date of next meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> November, 13.30-15.00. Issues for discussion to be sent to [Maureen.watt.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Maureen.watt.msp@scottish.parliament.uk) or [info@scotland-malawipartnership.org](mailto:info@scotland-malawipartnership.org).