

## CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

### NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Religious Freedom.

### PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Please state the purpose of the Group.
2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.
3. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established.
4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

1.

The group will provide a forum for MSPs, enabling discussion and the widest possible engagement with the multi-faith community, locally, nationally, and internationally.

2.

The group will provide a platform for MSPs to consider religious freedom in the knowledge that belief and freedom to express that belief is the hallmark of a democratic society, and fosters respect, and tolerance in our communities in the Public Interest.

3.

There is currently no equivalent group in the Scottish Parliament.

4.

Possible discussion topics arising from the initial meeting:

- Religious Tolerance in a multi-faith world.
- Funding Issues
- Awareness Campaigns on issues such as religious intolerance.
- Global matters e.g. Syrian refugee crisis. Exodus of religious people's fleeing wars.
- Article 18 on United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights:

*“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship*

*and observance”.*

- Article 19 on United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights:

*“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”.*

- Case studies from similar groups in other countries.

### **MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Dave Thompson (SNP).

Murdo Fraser (Conservatives).

Anne McTaggart (Labour).

John Mason (SNP).

Michael McMahon (Labour).

### **NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

Iain G Mitchell QC.

Fiona Brown.

Alastair H Reid.

Rob Whiteman.

Rev Maud Robinson.

Brian Miller.

David Bradwell.

Sally Fulton.

Douglas Proudfoot.

Organisations

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities.

Scottish Council of Muslims.

Church of Scotland.

	<p>Church of Scotland World Mission.  Free Church of Scotland.  Quakers.  Christian Solidarity Worldwide.  SOLAS  Release International.  Aid to the church in need UK.  Iona Community.  Tear Fund.  Steadfast Global.  CARE UK.  Inter-faith Scotland.  SCIAF.  Churches Parliamentary Office.  Evangelical Alliance.</p>
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**GROUP OFFICE BEARERS**

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Dave Thompson.
Deputy Convener	Murdo Fraser and Anne McTaggart.
Secretary	Michael Robinson of Aid to the Church in Need UK.
Treasurer	N/A.

**FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS**

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Michael Robinson of Aid to the Church in need - £800 in kind.

**SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP**

Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

None.

**CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS**

Name	Dave Thompson.
Parliamentary address	Room M3.11 The Scottish Parliament EH 99 1SP.
Telephone number	0131 348 5325.

**STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on <SUBJECT> is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed

Date

17/09/2015.