

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Kurdistan
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)
October 27 2016
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
October 24 2017
DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]
October 27 2016
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
November 22 2017
GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES
Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.
Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.
The group has not met as regularly as initially planned in the last year (October 2016 – October 2017) due to high levels of activity outside of parliament on issues relating to Kurdistan.
On 26th September 2017 , a meeting attended by two MSPs and 12 non-MSPs discussed the situation in northern Kurdistan/south-eastern Turkey, where we were

joined via video-conference by a vice chair and MP of the People's Democratic Party (HDP), the most heavily persecuted opposition party in Turkey and the primary political representatives of Turkey's Kurdish minority. Discussions included how we can expand the number of Scottish and other UK politicians participating in schemes to support persecuted MPs of the HDP and other similar solidarity work.

This meeting also discussed recent Police Scotland actions against members of the Kurdish community in Scotland and the concerns which these have generated, and the activities of Scottish Solidarity with Kurdistan

The **AGM on October 24 (attended by 5 MSPs and 22 non-MSPs)** discussed the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan following the independence referendum there. For this discussion we were joined by associate foreign editor of the Herald/Sunday Herald, David Pratt (also of the Scottish Global Forum), who was present during the referendum. Unfortunately a representative of the Kurdish Regional Government was unable to join us as planned, due to the escalating situation on the KRGs effective border with the Iraqi central government's territory.

We plan on exploring the role of women in Kurdish society and the struggle for Kurdish rights and self-determination in early 2018, in association with International Womens Day.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Ross Greer, Scottish Green Party
Ruth Maguire, Scottish National Party
Ash Denham, Scottish National Party
Bob Doris, Scottish National Party
Clare Haughey, Scottish National Party
James Dornan, Scottish National Party
John Finnie, Scottish Green Party
Pauline McNeill, Scottish Labour Party

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	
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Organisations	Scottish Solidarity with Kurdistan Scottish Global Forum
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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(s)	Ross Greer MSP & Ruth Maguire MSP* (from October 2017)
Deputy Convener	Ruth Maguire MSP (until October 2017)
Secretary	Stephen Smellie
Treasurer	

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received 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.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

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

None

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name

Ross Greer MSP

Parliamentary
address

MG.21, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Telephone number

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