

# Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Racial Equality in Scotland

Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

## Attendance

### Present:

Fulton MacGregor MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament (Convener)
Christina McKelvie MSP	Minister for Older People and Equalities (Speaker)
Emma Harper MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament
Harry Dozier	Scottish Government
Eric Graham	Individual (Speaker)
Zandra Yeaman	Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (Speaker)
Carol Young	Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights
Rebecca Marek	Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights
Erika Schmidt	Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights
Harriette Campbell	African Caribbean Women's Association/WSREC
Safia Ali	CEMVO Scotland
Sandra Scott	City of Edinburgh Council – Additional Support for Learning Service
Nikhat Yusaf	City of Edinburgh Council – Additional Support for Learning Service
Martin Hayward	Equality and Human Rights Commission
Abdul Bostani	Glasgow Afghan United
Danielle Bett	Jewish Leadership Council
Naseem Anwar	Network Rail
Nick Pascazio	Network Rail
Gozie Joe Adigwe	RNIB/ STUC Black Workers Committee
Faten Hameed	Scottish Iraqi Society
Sabrina Tickle	Sikh Sanjog
Satnam Singh	Sikh Sanjog
Chris Campbell	Standard Life – MOSAIC
Imran Khan	Standard Life – MOSAIC
Rohini Sharma Joshi	Trust Housing Association
Sukhi Bains	University of St. Andrews
Khaleda Hussain	Voluntary Action Fund
Jonathan Ssentamu	Waverly Care African Health Project
Mohammed Razaq	West of Scotland Regional Equality Council
Anita Shelton	Individual
Lord Apetsi McMensa	Individual
Oluwatoyin Opeloyeru	Individual
Shaukut Sultan	Individual

### Apologies:

Adam Tomkins MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament (Vice Convener)
Jackie Baillie MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament
Jeremy Balfour MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament
Bob Doris MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament (Vice Convener)
Anas Sarwar MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament (Vice Convener)
Jatin Haria	Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (Secretariat)
Khaleda Noon	Action for Children
Raza Sadiq	Active Life Club

Fiaz Khan	CEMVO Scotland
Arun Gopinath	Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC)
Linda Alexander	Children's Health Scotland
Suzanne Marshall	College Development Network
Nasim Azad	Edinburgh Interfaith Association
Naren Sood	EMCC
Kash Taank	Glasgow Life
Milind Kolhatkar	Score Scotland
Nabirye Balyejusa	Score Scotland
Micheline Brannan	Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
Trishna Singh	Sikh Sanjog
Eyran Selasie Ahadzie	University of Strathclyde Student Union
Titilayo Farukuoye	University of Strathclyde Student Union
Colin Clark	University of the West of Scotland
Yasmeen Hussain	University of the West of Scotland
Audrey Coltart	West Pilton and West Granton Community Council
Geri McDonnell	West Pilton and West Granton Community Council
Fuad Alakbarov	Individual
Davidson Chademana	Individual
Zahra Hussain	Individual

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Convener Fulton MacGregor MSP called the meeting to order at 18.20 and welcomed speakers and members to the meeting.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER) conducted the Annual General Meeting. Fulton MacGregor MSP was nominated as Convener, and the group unanimously voted in favour. Bob Doris MSP, Anas Sarwar MSP, and Adam Tomkins MSP were all re-elected as Vice Conveners in absentia.

Fulton MacGregor MSP noted his thanks to CRER for their years serving as Secretariat of the CPG and for ensuring that the group continued into this parliamentary session. CRER had decided to stand down as Secretariat for the coming term.

CEMVO Scotland was nominated as the Secretariat of the CPG, and the group unanimously voted in favour.

## **Presentation for Black History Month– Zandra Yeaman, CRER**

Zandra Yeaman spoke to the group about Black History Month in Scotland. Her presentation addressed:

- The history of Black History Month in the USA, UK, and Scotland
- The use of the term 'Black' in Black History Month
- The importance of celebrating Black History Month in Scotland today
- The lack of Black History education in the Scottish school system
- The importance of white allies being anti-racist rather than simply not racist
- The need for a dedicated museum of slavery, colonialism, empire, and migration in Scotland

## **Presentation for Black History Month– Dr Eric Graham, Historian**

Dr Eric Graham spoke to the group about his research into Scotland's role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. His presentation addressed:

- The lack of education about Scotland's role in slavery in Scottish schools
- The lack of knowledge about Scotland's role in the slavery within wider Scottish society
- The false narrative of Scotland being 'heroes and victims' but never perpetrators of atrocities
- Historical records of Scotland's involvement in the slave trade, including records of slaving voyages and sales
- Historical records of Scotland's involvement in plantation slavery
- Historical records of Scotland's support for the confederacy during the American Civil War
- The wealth Scotland generated through its involvement in slavery

## **Presentation for Black History Month– Christina McKelvie MSP**

The Minister for Older People and Equalities spoke to the group about her and the Scottish Government's involvement in Black History. She addressed:

- Her aspiration to eradicate discrimination in all forms in her role as Minister
- Her pride in Scotland becoming a more ethnically diverse country
- Her early involvement in Black History Month events and Black History in her local area
- The contributions of the Scottish Government to funding Black History and wider race equality through the Race Equality Action Plan 2017-2021
- The awareness the Scottish Government has of its need to increase the diversity of its staff and support BME employees
- The struggle to get race equality into the education system, and her willingness to speak to colleagues in the Education Directorate regarding this
- The need to permeate Black History throughout education, culture, and the media
- The possible role of reparations in making Scotland the fairer country it aspires to be

## **Group Discussion**

A group discussion followed the presentations, which addressed:

- The recognition of the contribution of African groups to Scotland
- The role Glasgow in particular played in welcoming refugees to Scotland
- The impact of sugar and tobacco trade in Scotland today
- The tension between the rhetoric and reality of being a fair and welcoming country
- The need to incorporate Black History into the education curriculum
- The need for Initial Teacher Training to focus on race equality and Black History

## **Presentation – Martin Hayward, Equality and Human Rights Commission**

Martin Hayward alerted the group to the following updates from the Equality and Human Rights Commission:

- The publication of 'Is Scotland Fairer' which presents data on equality across a variety of sectors and provides recommendations for action
- The inquiry into racial harassment in higher education, which is a Great Britain wide inquiry to be concluded in the first half of 2019
- The strategic plan consultation, which will look into the priorities the EHRC should consider going forward

### **Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Convener then introduced the minutes of the meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The minutes were approved by the group.

### **Close**

The Convener brought the meeting to a close at 20.00 and thanked everyone for their attendance, especially the speakers, and noted that the date of the next meeting would be announced shortly.