



## **Annual General Meeting – 9 January 2019, 11.30am - Room P, Portcullis House**

Details of AGM were submitted to All Party Notice on 26 November 2018, and included in the APN from 13 December. They were also posted on the APPG website frontpage ([www.appglgbt.org](http://www.appglgbt.org)) from 13 December.

### **ATTENDEES**

**Parliamentarians:** Nick Herbert MP, Crispin Blunt MP, Lord Cashman, Baroness Barker, Sir Peter Bottomley MP and Lord Collins.

**Parliamentary staff:** Alexander Black and Christopher Howarth (Nick Herbert).

**Civil society:** Andrew Slinn (Project for Modern Democracy), Paul Dillane (UK Alliance for Global Equality / Kaleidoscope Trust), Claire House (Stonewall), Claire Fletcher (UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group), Alistair Stewart (Human Dignity Trust), Jenny Vaughn (StopAIDS), Ross Reeves (AIDS Alliance).

**Apologies:** Stewart McDonald MP, Peter Kyle MP.

## **MINUTES**

### **Required administrative items for reporting deadline:**

**1. Quorum:** Meeting was confirmed as quorate with the attendance of: Nick Herbert MP, Crispin Blunt MP, Lord Cashman, Baroness Barker, Sir Peter Bottomley MP and Lord Collins.

**2. Officers:** It was agreed to re-elect all existing officers to continue in their previous positions, and additionally to elect Peter Kyle as Vice-Chair.

Chair – Nick Herbert MP

Vice Chairs – Baroness Barker, Lord Cashman, Peter Kyle MP, Stewart McDonald MP

Secretary – Crispin Blunt MP

Treasurer – Lord Collins

**3. Funding/expenditure statement:** It was agreed that since the benefit-in-kind funding from the

Baring Foundation (for the Kaleidoscope Trust to host the APPG's administrator) was to begin from 4 February 2019, then the funding would be registered at the end of the next reporting period.

**APPG 2019 activity items:**

**1. New administrator:** The APPG was updated by Paul Dillane (*Kaleidoscope Trust*) about the selection and employment conditions of the incoming administrator, Anna Robinson, who starts on 4 February 2019. The position is funded by a grant from the Baring Foundation for £40,000 over two years, and when advertised received over 40 applications. Nick Herbert will undertake to update the Baring Foundation at a meeting later in January. It was agreed that as Chair, Nick Herbert was to be her immediate line manager to set work directives, with Kaleidoscope Trust as responsible for legal employment issues. It was also agreed that Anna would work for the APPG as a whole, being available to all Officers and Members, and would operate a network of key staff contacts in each Officer's office to coordinate APPG campaigns.

**2. Proactive campaigns:** A wide-ranging discussion was held on the future work programme for the APPG's proactive campaigns and the following broad areas were agreed upon.

- Equal Rights Coalition related lobbying: to lobby the Government to resource sufficiently its ERC ambitions once the UK takes joint chairmanship in June 2019; to marshal diplomatic support in the UN for the continuation of the Independent Expert on SOGI ahead of the vote in June.
- Religion enquiry: to use the APPG's new administrative capacity to press ahead by conducting and publishing a thorough review into the interaction between global LGBT Rights and faith, by holding evidence sessions with religious leaders from across the spectrum. It was agreed that once in post, Anna would draw up an outline and roadmap for the project, into which Officers would then feed suggestions. It was generally agreed that the focus should be informed by asking LGBT people of different faith groups for their experiences and priorities.
- Gender Recognition Act reform: to remain engaged and to support the reform case where effective, while recognising that other groups were leading on the issue.
- Commonwealth follow-up: to ensure that the Government keeps commitments made at CHOGM 2018.
- LGBT Action Plan follow-up: to hold the Government to account in meeting the stated objectives in the LGBT Action Plan, and to highlight areas for improvement where it does not meet the APPG's 2015 report. Lords APPG members are to lobby Lord Ahmad and Commons APPG members are to lobby Penny Mordaunt.
- IDAHOT debate: to hold another debate on LGBT rights around the time of IDAHOT (17 May). It was agreed that these set-piece events are useful as an annual show-of-force but that they must not replace the ongoing lower-profile pressures of questions and ministerial meetings.

**3. Reactive monitoring:** It was agreed to monitor particular hotspots globally including Chechnya

and Tanzania, while recognising the APPG's reliance on INGO reports and approaches to do so. Brazil was raised as a particular concern by Claire House (*Stonewall*) and it was agreed that the APPG would take a close interest in developments over 2019.

**4. International LGBTI Equality Caucus (ILEC):** APPG Chair, Nick Herbert updated the APPG on plans for the new ILEC which will launch later this year and hold a conference alongside the UK Government's 2020 ERC conference in London.