**Scottish Parliament**

**Malawi Cross Party Group**

**Thursday 28th October 2021**

**6 - 7pm (UK Time) / 7 – 8pm (Malawi Time)**

**Digital Meeting by Zoom**

**MINUTES:**

**In attendance**:

* Alasdair Allan MSP (Chair)
* Alexander Stewart MSP
* Colin Smyth MSP
* Fiona Hyslop MSP
* Foysol Choudhury MSP
* Jenni Minto MSP
* Richard Lochhead MSP
* Sarah Boyack MSP
* Liam McArthur MSP
* Alan Laverock, Scotland Malawi Partnership / Bananabox Trust
* Antonia Ho
* Archie Marshall
* Brian Kerr
* Dave Alsop
* David Hope-Jones
* Douglas Blackwood
* Eve Broadis, Fair Trade Scotland
* Heather Cubie
* Helen Mein
* Iain Fulton
* Iain Woodhouse
* Ian Mitchell
* Jade Stein, Scotland Malawi Partnership
* Jailos Mapeza Mhango
* Jenifer Barrett
* Kate McLaughlin
* Pam Wilson
* Paul Garside
* Ray French
* Robert Kalin
* Rosemary Harrison
* Sally Rae
* Sarah Black
* Sheena Nicolson
* Stuart Brown
* Susan Dalgety
* Thomson Chirwa
* Tim Eden
* Tracy Morse

**Apologies:**

* Angela Constance MSP
* Angus Robertson MSP
* Annabelle Ewing MSP
* Claire Haughey MSP
* Finlay Carson MSP
* Jamie Hepburn MSP
* John Mason MSP
* Maurice Golden MSP
* Michelle Thomson MSP
* Natalie Don MSP
* Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
* Stuart McMillan MSP

On the 28th of October 2021, the Malawi Cross Party Group (CPG) held their first meeting of this session, chaired by Alasdair Allan MSP. The full recording of this meeting can be found [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvcN7ujKT0c&). Please click any of the below headings (highlighted in blue) to jump to the respective section of the video.

* [**Introduction, welcome and networking**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvcN7ujKT0c&t=0s)
  + Alasdair Allan MSP welcomed attendees and David Hope-Jones gave apologies for those who could not attend. Alasdair then gave a short briefing on technical admin and the purpose of this meeting.
* [**Election of Position Holders**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvcN7ujKT0c&t=245s)
  + David went through the election of Co-Convenors and Co-Vice Convenors. **Alasdair Allan MSP**, **Alexander Stewart MSP** and **Liam McArthur MSP** were re-elected as **Co-Convenors**, proposed by **Prof Heather Cubie** and seconded by **Prof Robert Kalin**. **Mark Ruskell MSP** and **Sarah Boyack MSP** were elected as **Co-Vice Convenors**, proposed by **Prof** **Paul Garside** and seconded by **Brian Kerr**. Alasdair went through the election of the Secratariat. **David Hope-Jones** was re-elected as **Secretary**, proposed by **Liam McArthur MSP** and seconded by **Prof Heather Cubie**.
* [**Briefing on the Scotland-Malawi relationship**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvcN7ujKT0c&t=561s)
  + David gave a briefing on the history and current state of the Scotland-Malawi relationship.

Alasdair suggested Governance could be a fruitful topic and useful theme to focus on in the period ahead given the challenges put forward by the President of Malawi. He also hoped that a key message that would arise from COP26 is that ‘those countries least responsible for climate change are those who are most affected by it’.

Liam McArthur MSP echoed these sentiments, and emphasised the exemplary nature of the partnership between Scotland and Malawi, and the importance of not undervaluing the benefits that Scotland derives from it.

Alexander Stewart MSP added that the large number of individuals and organisations in Scotland with active links to Malawi had allowed the Malawi CPG to move to the next level, beyond many other groups within the Scottish Parliament.

Fiona Hyslop MSP commented on the importance of the Malawi CPG, in its ensuring that Government understands the strength of belief that the Parliament has in Scotland-Malawi links. She assured those attending that their support helped bring ballast and impetus to the genuine and very effective work that the Scottish Government does.

* [**Proposal: continuing to work closely with the UK Parliament’s Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvcN7ujKT0c&t=1969s)
  + David went through the proposal to continue working closely with the UK Parlaiment’s Malawi APPG. This proposal was approved, being proposed by **Prof Robert Kalin** and seconded by **Alasdair Allan MSP**.
* **Break Out Groups** (footage of this section was not captured due to technical limitations)
  + Separate breakout groups were opened, where attendees could speak directly with the MSPs in attendance. Any attendees who wish to have further conversations with any of the MSPs should email [david@scotland-malawipartnership.org](mailto:david@scotland-malawipartnership.org), who will share their email addresses with the respective MSPs.
* [**Closing remarks**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvcN7ujKT0c&t=2400s)
  + Alasdair thanked all those who took part, asserting the value of the CPG being aregular occurrence, involving those in Malawi and groups around the country who are active in promoting Scotland-Malawi links.