

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for the

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

on

UN Women

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on UN Women (hereafter 'the APPG') was established in September 2020 by a cross-party group of parliamentarians.

Co-Chair: Maria Miller (Conservative MP for Basingstoke)

Co-Chair: Baroness Verma (Conservative Peer)

Vice-Chairs:

Julie Elliott (Labour MP for Sunderland Central)

Liz Saville-Roberts (Plaid Cymru MP Dwyfor Meirionnydd)

Laura Farris (Conservative MP for Newbury) (TBD)

Sarah Champion (Labour MP for Rotherham) (TBD)

Hannah Bardell (Scottish National Party MP for Livingston) (TBD)

1. Objectives

This APPG provides a parliamentary platform to address the urgent need to take action to mitigate the disproportionate burdens carried by women and girls, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to promote and advance UN Women's work in the UK through three specific focus areas:

1. Creating game-changing solutions for women's safety in public spaces across the UK (including online/virtual settings e.g. social media platforms etc.) through work to promote and advance the Safe Spaces Now campaign.
2. 'Building back better' for women in the UK in the post-COVID-19, in part by establishing multilateral dialogues with other UN member states on solutions to tackle gender inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic; and
3. Accelerating action for the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

The parliamentary register for the APPG is available [here](#).

The APPG will also seek to align Parliamentarians' goals and energies ahead of the annual Commission on the Status of Women delegation to the United Nations.

2. Background

The global champion for women and girls, UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The organisation works to create a future where every woman and girl has equal access to safety, the choice to reach her full potential in work and life, and a voice – representation within leadership at all levels. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments, private sector organisations, civil society, communities and individuals to make this change happen at every level. The organisation works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life.

This year, UN Women's 10th birthday and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the largest ever blueprint for a more equal world created in 1995, world leaders and women's rights activists had planned to come together to take stock of how much has been achieved for women and girls thus far, and what more needs to be done to accelerate parity. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has further exacerbated the inequalities that still exist, and is threatening to undo many of the gains on gender equality of the past 25 years. This APPG therefore seeks to promote and advance the bold policies urgently needed to accelerate progress to deliver equality within our lifetime.

3. Secretariat

The secretariat for the APPG is provided by UN Women UK.

The role of UN Women UK within the APPG is to provide technical and administrative support, uphold the rules of an APPG, and act as a key contact/coordinator for meetings and members. Where bespoke and original research is to be carried out to uncover new insights and support the APPG's decision-making, UN Women UK will lead on carrying out this work. UN Women UK will also manage any sponsorship monies, events and expenses, keeping full accounts records and making any necessary declarations of interest within the rules of the APPG.

The secretariat will be supported on administrative matters, such as registration, meeting scheduling, and minute taking by Rachel Edwards, parliamentary researcher to Maria Miller (Conservative MP for Basingstoke).

Further support provided to the APPG secretariat will be declared when confirmed.

4. Public Enquiry Point

Claire Barnett, Executive Director, UN Women UK.

Email: Claire.barnett@unwomenuk.org

5. Members

MPs and members of the House of Lords from all parties are invited to join the APPG – if you are passionate about gender equality, accelerating progress on the SDGs, or eliminating gender-based violence, we very much encourage you to join.

Officers of the group include:

TBD

Other members of the group include:

Members of the general public are encouraged to contact their local MP to encourage them to show interest in joining the APPG – either as a permanent member or for specific discussions – to play an active part in furthering gender equality in the UK.

6. Programme of Work

The APPG members will work together to build its annual programme of work.

As part of its programme, the APPG may wish to regularly review new and emerging evidence, working closely with civil society and academia; government, as well as local, regional, national and international policy; ensure involvement of women from all backgrounds in the work of the APPG; and the APPG may look to produce reports/documents following its own inquiries into specific areas. It will also signpost to and reference any external reports and information that it feels are appropriate to the topic and work of the APPG.

7. Meetings and Events

The APPG will hold a minimum of two meetings per year, in the accordance with the rules on APPGs. Details of these meetings will be announced in due course. The APPG may also host a number of events throughout the year.

8. Financials

APPGs receive no taxpayer funding. Funding is required, however, to run a professional and effective group. There are costs associated with administration, event management, running a webpage and more.

The APPG is currently seeking funding to support both its secretarial work for members, and for specific projects, which will not be able to continue without funding. Please reach out to annette.fletcher@unwomenuk.org if you would like to discuss options for providing funding, large

or small, from a company, grant maker, or other interested party. This is an opportunity to make a lasting difference to the UK's ability to deliver on the UN Sustainable Development goals, and to accelerate gender equality for the benefit of all.

Any monies received relating to the APPG will be declared on the Parliament website within 28 days of receipt.

All funds received (no matter how great or small the amount) are declared in the Register of All-Party Groups, which is compiled and published by the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. It is the role of the Officers of the APPG to ensure transparency and independence within the group. Full year accounts will be prepared by UN Women UK and made available upon request.

8. Key resources

UK Gender Equality Policy Map

https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/commons/scrutiny/gender_equality_policy_map_april_2020.pdf

UN Women

<https://www.unwomen.org/en>

UN Women UK

<https://www.unwomenuk.org/>