



APPG for Armenia – Inaugural General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 15 October 2024

Time: 2:00–3:00 PM

Location: Room B, 1 Parliament Street

Attendees

Jessica Morden Labour MP

Blair McDougall Labour MP

John Whittingdale MP

Baroness Cox

Ruth Cadbury MP

Rupa Huq MP

Jim Shannon MP

John Stringer MP

Lord Speller

Staff member on behalf of Julia Lopez MP

Joe Perry, British Group, Inter Parliamentary Union

Annette Moskofian Secretariat

Ambassador Varuzhan Nersesyan

Louis Wilson - Global Witness

James Joseph - MD The Duty Legacy

Johnathan Peters - Program Director Near East Foundation UK

Father David Thomas - HART Foundation

Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Law, Lord McInnes of Kilwinning, Alex Sobel, Linsey Farnsworth, Sammy Wilson, Lord Mann, Lord Alton of Liverpool and Ben Lake.

1. Election of Officers

The election of officers took place prior to admitting some of the external guests into the meeting. The following were elected unanimously:

- Chair: Jessica Morden MP
- Vice Chairs: John Whittingdale MP, Chris Law MP, Lord McInnes

Annette Moskofian confirmed that she would continue as Secretariat, as in the predecessor group.

It was agreed that Baroness Cox would serve an honorary role among the group's elected officers.

The newly elected Chair thanked her predecessor Tim Loughton and his staff for their leadership of the group, and thanked Annette Moskofian for her work as the group's Secretariat.

2. Remarks from the Armenian Ambassador

Ambassador Nersesyan congratulated the group and its newly elected officers, spoke about the importance of the UK-Armenia relationship and deepening those ties, and gave a short briefing about Armenian security and the importance of a peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

3. Briefing from expert guest speakers

Guest speakers Arman Tatoyan and Karnig Kerkonian provided their analysis of the current situation in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, the displacement of people and related human rights concerns; international discussion around the detention of Armenian prisoners in Baku, and the damage to cultural and religious heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh. They also discussed security concerns in border towns and villages, and answered members' questions.

4. Briefing from Annette Moskofian

Annette Moskofian the threats facing Armenia; the UK's participation in the upcoming Conference of Parties 29 in Baku; the UK Government's engagement with the Government and President of Azerbaijan about the detention of Armenian prisoners in Baku and the displacement of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh; territorial claims in the region; the damage done to Armenian cultural and religious heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh; and human rights concerns in Azerbaijan.

The meeting concluded at 3:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Annette Moskofian, Secretariat