



All-Party Parliamentary Group

War Crimes

Inaugural meeting APPG on War Crimes

Weds 4th September 2024 1230hrs

Location: TV Interview Room (in person only)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ATTENDEES

Lord Mendelsohn
Lord Polak
Dan Norris MP
Lord Alton of Liverpool
Jo White MP
Alex Baker MP
Mark Ferguson MP

Lord Mackenzie

Dame Margaret Hodge
Lord David Richards of
Herstmonceux
Lord McNicol
Baroness Altmann
Baroness Deech
Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale
Lord John Stevens of
Kirkwhelpington
Rt Hon Sir Jeremy Wright KC MP
Lord Falconer of Thoroton
Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws

APOLOGIES

Lord Andrew Roberts of Belgravia
Lord Dannatt
David Mundell
Bob Blackman MP

The quorum of 5 members was reached so the meeting was opened.

1. Welcome

Lord Mendelsohn opened the meeting as a longstanding member and thanked everyone for attending and for their support to enable the work of the group to continue.

He NOTED that this group is an extension of the original War Crimes APPG that helped ensure the passing of the War Crimes Act in 1991, this also considered the issue of the UK being a safe haven for alleged war criminals which is one of the aspects of its ongoing work in relation to the alleged Rwandan war criminals.

He AGREED to continue to provide the secretariat support to the group.

It was NOTED that the new Chair, David Mundell MP, was unable to attend this meeting but has been involved in discussions in advance of taking on the role. In his absence Lord Mendelsohn conducted the formal process of electing the officers.

David Mundell asked that his support and commitment to the work of the APPG, to look into matters relating to the presence of alleged Rwandan war criminals in the UK and the prosecution of those who participated in the Rwandan genocide, be NOTED and that he will work with officers and members to continue to pressure for attention to this matter from Government, the CPS and the Met Police Serious Crimes Unit from which the War Crimes investigators operate. The group representatives will continue to navigate the delays in this process and get commitment from government to address this issue.

2. Election of Officers

The proposed new chair and registered contact is David Mundell MP.

Proposed:

Chair and Registered contact: David Murrison MP

Proposer: Lord Polak

Seconder: Mark Ferguson MP

AGREED

Proposed

Officer: Lord Polak

Proposer: Mark Fisher

Seconder: Lord Alton

AGREED

Proposed

Officer: Dan Norris MP

Proposer: Lord Polak

Seconder: Jo White MP

AGREED

Lord Mendelsohn handed the Chair to Lord Polak to conduct the final election.

Proposed

Co-Chair: Lord Mendelsohn

Proposer: Dan Norris MP

Seconder: Jo White MP

AGREED

Lord Mendelsohn then resumed the chair and thanked members.

It was NOTED that a briefing was circulated giving the background detail to the issues concerning the Group and laying out the strategy going forward and that there would

be further discussions and meeting scheduled in pursuit of information and action on matters.

It was NOTED the first meeting would be on 15th October with Assistant Commissioner Matt Jukes provide us with some useful engagement with the Met Police commissioner responsible for the war crimes investigators.

3. Any Other Business

Select Committee Links:

It was NOTED that the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights were doing investigation into Daesh War Crimes in the last parliamentary session. The Secretariat will find out whether this is being picked up by the new Committee

It was NOTED that the German war crimes investigation model is an effective one and may be something raised with the relevant Select Committee.

It was AGREED that the group would write to Clerks or relevant committees with background briefing on the issues

It was AGREED to make contact with Dr Ewelina Ochab co-founder of the Inst of the Coalition for Genocide Response

It was NOTED that Lord Mendelsohn was willing to fund the group going forward and this would be reported in the required way.

The Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting