

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON POLITICAL LITERACY Minutes For 8th Meeting on 13.03.2023

Attended on 13.03.2023 (Parliamentarians): *Lord Iain McNicol (Co-Chair), Kim Leadbeater MP (co-Vice-Chair)*

Apologies from those who could not attend (Parliamentarians): *Simon Fell MP (Co-Chair), Tracey Crouch MP (co-Vice-Chair), Nickie Aiken MP (Co-Vice-Chair), Cat Smith MP, Lord Chris Rennard, Owen Thompson MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Helen Hayes MP, Afzal Khan MP, Kate Green MP, Rachel Hopkins MP, Andrew Bowie MP, Christian Wakeford MP, Julie Marson MP, Tim Loughton MP, Lord Simon Woolley, Ben Bradley MP, Lord Andrew Lansley, Ruth Jones MP, Marion Fellows MP, Flick Drummond MP*

Attended on 13.03.2023 (Secretariat): *Matteo Bergamini, CEO (Shout Out UK), Shima Langan, Public Policy Coordinator (Shout Out UK), Sarah Bannon, Digital Campaigns Coordinator (Shout Out UK), Nikita Atwal, Education Coordinator (Shout Out UK), Nathan Bryan, Education Coordinator (Shout Out UK), Daniel Rockman, Education Coordinator (Shout Out UK)*

Welcome: Updates from members on new projects/publications/related activities

1. Lord Iain McNicol opened up the meeting, thanking everyone for attending the eighth in-person meeting of the APPG on Political Literacy. He talked about how grateful he was to see everyone coming together to speak about Political Literacy and its relationship with youth engagement. He highlighted the important work of Shout Out UK, Dr James Weinberg and The Missing Link Report, saying that the APPG has made important strides towards ensuring young people are equipped with the tools to engage with our democracy. He went over apologies from parliamentarians, noting that several bills were going through Parliament on that particular day.
2. Kim Leadbeater thanked Lord Iain for the wonderful introduction and explained how grateful she was to be part of the APPG. She went on to say that political literacy was particularly important to her, and is something she does a lot of work on within her constituency. She discussed how the Missing Link report pointed to the need to take a more comprehensive look at our current educational curriculum and the strain being put on teachers, in order to improve the current provision of political literacy education.
3. Following this, the CEO and Founder of Shout Out UK, Matteo Bergamini thanked Lord Iain for the introduction, the roundtable participants and the audience for coming along to the event. He reaffirmed Lord Iain's words and stressed that now was the time for action. He provided an update on the work that Shout Out UK has been doing, including an impartial Voter ID public awareness campaign with the Greater London Authority. He also provided an update on the Academic Advisory Group (AAG) and shared how AAG members were in the midst of a number of

exciting projects that might be of interest to the audience - everything from studies of gender inequalities in youth participation to research on the key moments in young people's civic journeys. He went on to explain that Sarah Mills, an academic in the AAG, will be joining Shout Out UK for a week in order to provide data analysis around teacher CPD, which would then later feed into the proof of concept that Shout Out UK is presenting to the Department of Education.

4. Lord Iain thanked Matteo and then explained that the group would now hear from George Bundock, a member of the Youth Policy Development Group, a programme funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and run by Shout Out UK.
5. George thanked Lord Iain for the introduction and reaffirmed how excited he was to be attending the meeting. He mentioned that it was almost a year ago since he had the pleasure of addressing this APPG and that it was great to be having this discussion in-person. He gave a brief introduction on the YPDG, explaining how it is made up of a group of young people from across the UK who represent and articulate the voice of England's youth across government. He pointed to how their direct policy work with government ministers and departments was a testament to the power of youth engagement and youth voice. He stressed that as we moved into the 21st century, it was of paramount importance to equip the next generation with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in democracy through education. He added on that in order to get young people to engage with politics, greater emphasis needed to be put on social action. He stressed that this was a powerful tool for creating real change in communities, including through community programmes and youth-led initiatives. He urged everyone to support youth engagement in politics and to be proactive in making it happen.
6. Lord Iain thanked George for his speech and asked if anyone had any questions.

Follow-Up Questions and Further Points

7. Kim stressed that this meeting was an important indicator of what she (and other political representatives) could do to understand the issues that matter to young people. She called on Shout Out UK and other organisations to bring young people together in order to hear their input on what they wanted and needed to engage politically.
8. A question from the President at Generation Maastricht responded saying that they found linking climate action to youth engagement as a great tool to get young people to engage politically. He goes on to say that in France, political literacy education is embedded into the curriculum better than it is in the UK. He says he is happy to speak about this afterwards.
9. Kim asks him if these classes are compulsory and if the classes are graded. He responds by saying that it is mixed and shared how there were currently questions in France around whether or not these classes should be assessed and graded. He goes on to say that his organisation has worked with the Secretary of State in France in order to implement civic education and political literacy education into daily practice.
10. Lara from the Migrant Democracy Project explains that she works with migrants and ensuring they are able to access their civic and democratic rights. She goes on to say that she is also a

local councillor and finds that a lot of information on democratic engagement is dependent on the council. She asks how the APPG can be utilised as a centralised method in order to push council to ensure people within their borough know their rights.

11. A member from KAYAV says the sector struggles with a lack of funding. She says it would be ideal to connect with some people here today and thanks the APPG for putting together the event.
12. Tom Brake from Unlock Democracy explains that his organisation is campaigning on issues related to voter ID, including photographic identification and automatic voter registration. He asks young people in the room to provide ideas on how they can get more young people involved.
13. Lord Iain responds by saying that he believes it begins with passion. He agrees with the concept of automatic voter registration. Matteo joins in and says there is a need to debunk the myth that young people don't care about political issues. Rather, he says the issue is that young people do not see the link between the issues they care about and political literacy.
14. A representative from the Henna Asians Women Group says that the challenges around voting for South Asian women is that many of them are not even registered to vote. She calls on there to be greater communication with local charities and organisations in order to speak to people on the ground level.
15. Mimi, a local councillor, joins the discussion. She says that as a local councillor she is very keen to engage with young people but what she needs is the feedback on how young people would like to be engaged with. She calls on young people to engage with local politicians. She says there is perhaps a fear amongst young people to get engaged with political voices but that political engagement needs to be a two way street.
16. George responds by saying there is nothing actually stopping young people from getting involved in politics. He says it's about shifting the argument from having young people on social media and at protests to actually bridging the link of these social issues to a deeper understanding of how these issues work within our political processes. He suggests starting local.
17. Kim agrees with Mimi's point. She says it's important to have young people in the room. She points to how we are all facing different issues on a day to day basis but that once you center this job of politics on humans, then you can make progress.
18. Lord Iain finishes by thanking everyone for attending and informs them that they will be planning their next steps in an upcoming meeting.