

**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Political Literacy Minutes for 12th Meeting:
Annual General Meeting on 19.03.2024**

Attended on 19.03.2024 (Parliamentarians): Lord Iain McNicol, Lord David Blunkett, Lord Chris Rennard, Lord Jim Knight, Ian Murray MP (via staff representative), Lord John Bird (via staff representative), Jeff Smith MP

Apologies from those who could not attend (Parliamentarians): Simon Fell MP, Nickie Aiken MP, Lord Kenneth Baker, Cat Smith MP, Tim Loughton MP, Ben Bradley MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Christian Wakeford MP, Flick Drummond MP, Helen Hayes MP, Philip Dunne MP, Yasmin Qureshi MP, Layla Moran MP, Andrew Bowie MP, Kirsty Blackman MP, Owen Thompson MP, Kim Leadbeater MP

Attended on 12.12.2023 (Secretariat): Matteo Bergamini, Founder and CEO (Shout Out UK), Jilly Rolnick, Programme Coordinator (Shout Out UK), Finlay Aitken, Digital Growth Lead (Shout Out UK)

Welcome from Lord Iain McNicol

Lord Iain welcomed members to the meeting and ensured that quorum was met before proceeding.

Elections

Lord Iain introduced the topic of elections.

Lord Blunkett nominated Lord Iain to serve as chair of the APPG and Lord Iain agreed. Lord Iain nominated Kim Leadbeater to continue to serve as chair as well. He also nominated Simon Fell MP and Lord Rennard to serve as vice chairs. Lord Rennard accepted the nomination.

The officers for the coming year were approved by consensus.

Remarks from Matteo Bergamini

Lord Iain introduced Matteo Bergamini to provide an update from Shout Out UK, the APPG's secretariat.

Matteo discussed the APPG's events this past year, which included Political Literacy Day in December. Attendees celebrated the importance of political literacy and representatives from Save the Children UK presented their Our Generation. Our Vote. campaign. In October, the APPG held a meeting with the Roma Organisation for Training and Advocacy (ROTA), who

talked about how the GRT (Gypsy, Roma and Traveller) community lacks access to making political decisions and they are building up a non-partisan political movement.

Then Matteo talked about SOUK's work with Open University and Dr Sandra Obradović to conduct qualitative research in England to explore what citizenship and democracy mean to young people, and to complete interviews with teachers about the new curriculum rollout in Wales. He noted that focus groups are underway.

Matteo said that SOUK had been trying to get in touch with Ofsted and its new head, Sir Martyn Oliver, and had invited them to the APPG meeting but had not heard back.

Lord Knight said that Martyn Oliver is hard to pin down and suggested holding events with other APPGs that also want to speak to him. He mentioned that he had explored embedding Ofsted inspections in the Online Safety Bill but received pushback. He also suggested that going through Ofcom, which is tasked with enhanced media literacy duties as a result of the Online Safety Bill, might be a more effective way to reach the government.

Matteo agreed and added that SOUK is currently working with Ofcom on a project to upskill practitioners and has a relationship with the organisation.

Matteo then brought up the ICCS (International Civic and Citizenship Education Study). James Weinberg, who chairs the APPG's Academic Advisory Group, has brought this up in the past and has suggested that the APPG help push to get England back in the study. ICCS is the only large-scale study of civic and citizenship education targeted at eighth-grade students that incorporates an assessment of civic knowledge and skills, alongside student attitudes and engagement. It investigates the ways in which young people are prepared to undertake their roles as citizens in a world where contexts of democracy and civic participation continue to change. In terms of cost, we're looking at a participation fee of 350,000 euros (which grants access to the survey materials, IEA data infrastructure, and IEA support/marketing at the end of the study) and a further £750,000-1,000,000 to set up the national study centre (think staff time and data collection costs). James met with representatives from the IEA (organisers of study) to discuss the details of when and how we could get England back involved. They offered to meet with parliamentary colleagues to answer more questions if we wish.

The representative from the office of Ian Murray MP asked if Scotland was a member. Matteo responded that he didn't know but would find out.

Lord Iain said that the first order of business would be to circulate a one pager to the group, then link with Ian Murray in Scotland to get them involved as education is devolved. He also suggested getting in touch with Baroness Debbie Wilcox in Wales to get Wales involved. He said we should do all of this before going to Shadow Secretary of State for Education Bridget Phillipson.

Matteo said that was a good idea and concluded his update

Discussion of future plans and other matters arising

Lord Iain asked if there was anything else to discuss.

Lord Knight brought up that there are a ton of new rules on how APPGs can be run. He additionally said the election would bring up the opportunity to recruit new members of the APPG and this should start before the election even occurs. He also voiced that it would be a good time to inventory other APPGs focused on similar topics and the work that they are doing.

Lord Iain agreed that we should take a look at APPGs in the same space to bolster our recruitment efforts.

Matteo mentioned he knew there was an APPG on Media Literacy that he has tried unsuccessfully to get in contact with in the past. There is also one on Democracy and the Constitution and there used to be one on Democratic Engagement that morphed into the current APPG on Political Literacy.

Lord Iain suggested that we plan our next meeting for the end of June or early July.

Matteo said that he would circulate a poll to the APPG's most active members to find a date.

Closing Remarks

Lord Iain concluded the meeting.