

Cross Party Group on Human Rights
Annual Report and Financial Statement

Meeting 12th March 2020

Present

Helen Mary Jones AM, Dr Simon Hoffman (Swansea University), Ele Hicks (Diverse Cymru), Catherine Fookes (WEN Wales), Catherine Lewis (Children in Wales), Claire Cunliffe (Oxfam Cymru), Katie Palmer (Food Sense Wales), Melissa Wood (EHRC Wales).

Apologies

Jayne Bryant AM, Darren Millar AM.

Minutes

[1]+[2] Welcome and purpose of meeting: Update from Helen Mary Jones AM

Helen Mary informed the meeting that she is involved in looking at the effectiveness of the Equality Duties.

Helen Mary's title has changed to Shadow Minister for the Economy, Transport and Tackling Poverty. She is currently chairing the Culture and Welsh Language committee while Bethan Sayed Am is on maternity leave.

Helen Mary informed the meeting about plans to promote equality by putting public procurement on a statutory footing through work on social partnership. This has been agreed in principle by the Senedd.

[3] Research on Advancing and Strengthening Equality and Human Rights in Wales

Simon (Swansea University) informed the meeting that together with partners from Bangor University, Diverse Cymru and Children in Wales (Young Wales) he has been commissioned to examine ways to advance and strengthen equality and human rights in Wales. The work had commenced in January with a literature review with fieldwork due to begin in April. The intention is to engage

as many stakeholders as possible. Simon expressed concern that Coronavirus might mean some of this engagement might need to be revisited, but that contingency planning was already underway.

[4] The work of the Cross Party Group on Poverty (Claire Cunliffe, Oxfam Cymru)Poverty

Claire informed the meeting generally about the work of the CPG on Poverty. The meeting noted that there are many -areas of common interest between the work of the CPG on Human Rights and the CPG on Poverty.

With the above in mind the meeting agreed to have a joint meeting of the CPGs around July or towards the end of the Assembly term, to include an update on the Strengthening and Advancing Equality and Human Rights in Wales research.

The CPGHR agreed to have a joint meeting of the Cross Party Groups on Poverty and Human Rights around July or towards the end of the Assembly term including an update on the Strengthening and Advancing Equality and Human Rights in Wales research.

Action: Simon (Swansea University) to take up with Claire (Oxfam).

Claire informed the meeting that the CPG on Poverty had persuade the Welsh Government to produce a factsheet on the work currently underway on poverty across the Welsh Government.

Action: Simon (Swansea University) to discuss with Claire (Oxfam).

The meeting noted that the Welsh Government's poverty strategy has been changed to an action plan.

[5] Open discussion

Wales Socio-Economic Duty

Helen Mary confirmed that she would be willing to channel any questions from the group on the implementation of the WSED to the Minister responsible.

Influencing manifestos

The group expressed a desire to influence party manifestos in advance of the next Senedd elections. It was agreed that any priorities should be communicated

asap, and that there should be a balance between general and specific 'asks'. Ideally these should be communicated to parties and Cross Party Groups in June or July.

[6] Review and approval of annual report

The group reviewed the annual report. Subject to some minor amendments the report was agreed.

Action: Action: Simon (Swansea University) to make amendments and forward to Helen Mary for filing with the Assembly Commission.

[7] Any other business

To note: There is a first stage debate on the Local Government Bill on 24th March. There has been discussion of incorporation of the right to adequate housing in the committee. There may be an amendment in relation to incorporation.

The EHRC issued their International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) report (12th March).

[8] Next meeting – see Action under item [4] above.

[9] Close

Helen Mary thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.