



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Minute of the Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group meeting held on Wednesday 18 September 2024 at 6.00pm**

**Present:**

- Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer (Chair)
- Sue Webber MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Carol Mochan MSP, Scottish Labour Party
- Ruth Maguire MSP, Scottish National Party
- Beatrice Wishart MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Professor Sarah Childs, Personal Chair of Politics and Gender, University of Edinburgh
- Professor Meryl Kenny, Professor of Gender and Politics, University of Edinburgh
- Femi Otitoju, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant

**Apologies:**

- Maggie Chapman MSP, Scottish Green Party
- Hannah Johnson, Knowledge Exchange Lead - Senedd Cymru & Senior Gender Adviser - INTER PARES

**In attendance:**

- Allan Campbell, Head of Operations, Chief Executive Group
- Tom Malone, Parliament Communications Office
- Gender Sensitive Advisory Group Secretariat

**Item 1: Introductions**

1.1 Apologies were received from Maggie Chapman and Hannah Johnson.

**Item 2: Minute of previous meeting and matters arising**

2.1 The Group agreed the Minutes of the previous meeting.

**Item 3: Update on progress on recommendations**

3.1 An update was provided on the recommendations related to data.

3.2 The Group noted the update paper and that it would receive a separate update on recommendation 2.

#### **Item 4: Consolidation of international guidance (recommendation 2)**

4.1 Meryl Kenny and Sarah Childs spoke to their paper. They asked the group for its input on their guide.

4.2 There was discussion about the length and content of the guide. Members commented that the RAG analysis example in the paper for the House of Commons—which assesses where gender sensitive change has taken place using a red, amber, green system—was particularly useful. The Group also agreed that it is important to carefully consider the length of the guide and options for making it most useful to its target audiences.

4.3 It was agreed that once the guide has been updated to reflect parliamentary style and language, and its final draft has been checked over by the Presiding Officer, it should be published as a formal output of the Group.

#### **Item 5: Priorities to end of session**

5.1 Following discussion, the group agreed that, while it is important to address each of the recommendations, it should decide on a list of priority recommendations that it will focus on delivering before the end of the parliamentary session. The group decided that it will prioritise the following recommendations:

- Recommendation 6, which asks the Equalities Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee to consider holding an evidence session on MSP candidate diversity.
- Recommendation 10, which asks SPICe to explore the creation and presentation of new MSP/Candidate diversity data.
- Recommendations 15, 16 and 17, on data collection and review.
- Recommendations 18, 19, 20 and 21 on rule changes to ensure parity on parliamentary bodies.
- Recommendation 26, which asks the SPPA Committee to consider whether complaints against MSPs related to bullying and harassment should be referred to an independent panel.

#### **Item 6: Communications**

6.1 The Group's current internal and external communications strategies were discussed, and there was consensus on the need to further promote the work of the Group to increase wider understanding of what it seeks to achieve and why it matters.

6.2 Options for the future approach to communications were discussed. It was agreed that options would be explored and brought back to a future meeting.

## **7. Any other business**

7.1 No member raised any other business.

**Gender Sensitive Parliament Advisory Group Secretariat  
September 2024**