

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

**Name of Cross-Party Group**

**Cross-Party Group on Ukraine**

**Date Group Established**

05 October 2023

**Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

24 September 2024

**Date Annual Return Submitted**

21 October 2024

**Date of Preceding AGM** [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

n/a

### **Group Meetings and Activities**

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

**05 December 2023**

**Attendance: 6 MSP members, 3 MSPs, 31 Non-MSPs, 15 guests**

**The overarching topic of the meeting was the celebration and support of the CPG's establishment, along with the introduction of the secretary and some members.**

Guest speaker Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice elaborated on the support of the Scottish Government through super sponsor scheme and Warm Scot Future policy paper as well as Scotland's support for Ukraine's fight for sovereignty, democracy, independence, and territorial integrity.

Paul O'Kane MSP, Miles Briggs MSP, and Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP as the CPG's Deputy Conveners emphasized Scottish Parliament's unified desire to support the initiative and highlighted the unity on the matter of Ukraine.

Guest speaker Yelyzaveta Yasko, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament extended gratitude for the support and commitment to Ukraine and acknowledged the tangible assistance provided by the people of Scotland during Ukraine's challenging times and the political support that accompanies it. Welcoming the idea of the CPG, she stressed the potential for a broad partnership between Scotland and Ukraine, looking forward to exploring future cooperation steps.

Guest speakers Jack Hillmeyer, Consul General of the U.S. Consulate General in Edinburgh, Christiane Hullmann, Consul General of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany Edinburgh, and Łukasz Lutostański, Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh affirmed dedication to aiding Ukraine, reflected on Ukraine's European aspirations highlighting the CPG's role as a forum to discuss both short-term and long-term cooperation.

Andrii Kuslii, Consul of the Consulate of Ukraine in Edinburgh shared the Ukrainian perspective.

The Secretary and some members of the CPG, namely the Scottish Refugee Council, the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain Edinburgh branch, the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain Glasgow branch, and the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain Dundee branch, were introduced with input from their respective chief executives and chairs.

Following preliminary conversations, a diverse array of themes for future meetings has been pinpointed, including Education, Culture, Politics, Employment, Health and Wellbeing, Resettlement, Special Events and Anniversaries, and Business Engagement. The Convener recommended establishing working groups to streamline the focus on specific areas for more effective oversight.

During the Any Other Business (AOB) segment Andrii Kuslii, the Consul of the Ukrainian Consulate in Edinburgh presented Steven Carr, Chairman of Dnipro Kids with a certificate of appreciation under the signature of the Ambassador of Ukraine to the UK, acknowledging his exceptional contributions and steadfast support, executing an evacuation plan to bring 50 children to safety in Scotland.

## **20 February 2024**

**Attendance: 4 MSP members, 29 Non-MSPs, 11 guests**

**The overarching topic of the meeting was commemoration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.**

Guest speaker Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture highlighted the strong ties between Scotland and the Ukrainian community and the Scottish Government's financial commitment to the Ukrainian resettlement program. He suggested strengthening ties through twinning Scottish and Ukrainian cities, using Edinburgh's twinning with Kyiv as an example and invited direct communication with Scottish officials to address any concerns or suggestions.

Andrii Kuslii, Consul of the Consulate of Ukraine in Edinburgh shared the Ukrainian perspective.

Guest speakers Oleksandra Matviichuk (OM), Chair of the Center for Civil Liberties and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and Iryna Knyzhnyk (IK), a combat medic from the Hospitallers Battalion, shared their perspectives on war crimes. OM highlighted the severe human rights violations committed by Russian troops, including targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure and the forced displacement of Ukrainian children. She also detailed the challenges in seeking justice and upholding human dignity in the face of such atrocities. IK discussed the systematic targeting of medics in the war, noting that over 200 have been killed in the past two years, including some of her close friends, along with the destruction of medical facilities and vehicles. One of the damaged ambulances has been brought to Scotland for display.

The CPG accepted new members and established a process for future membership requests. Applicants will be required to submit a brief CV, background information, and a statement outlining their interest in joining the CPG, allowing current members to make informed decisions about new memberships.

Working Groups on Resettlement, Education, Culture, Business and Economy, and Health and Wellbeing were formed. The nominated Chairs were introduced to present their visions and plans for moving forward.

During the Highlight Discussion on Forcible Child Deportation by Russia, the CPG heard from guest speaker Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan of the City of Edinburgh Council, who brought a motion to the ECC to raise awareness of these atrocities. Statistics from Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab and the National Police of Ukraine suggest that up to 744,000 children may have been kidnapped.

A short film, Shadows, dedicated to this topic was presented to the attendees as a video message.

## **16 April 2024**

**Attendance: 5 MSP members, 24 Non-MSPs, 5 guests**

**The overarching topic of the meeting was Ukraine Recovery.**

Guest speaker Bohdan Yaremenko, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, Member of the Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation could not access the meeting remotely due to technical difficulties.

Guest speaker Oleksandra Sologub (OS), Chief Executive Officer of Nazovni, introduced Nazovni as a service dedicated to facilitating the global expansion of Ukrainian businesses. The initiative is supported both institutionally and informationally by the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Nazovni has been operational for over two years and comprises approximately 2,000 vetted companies. OS highlighted key focus areas, including sectors such as electrical and other equipment, food and beverages, furniture, wood, tech talent, clothing, packaging, natural stones, commodities, and metal structures. She noted that 329 applications have been submitted by Ukrainian companies to enhance their export capabilities in the UK.

OS also introduced Nazovni Match, a tool that allows foreign companies to request products or services and be matched with verified Ukrainian companies. She highlighted partnerships and initiatives, including collaborations with local and international associations to support Ukrainian exporters. Additionally, OS presented Nazovni.Tech, a platform focused on scientific and high-tech projects contributing to Ukraine's recovery and integration efforts.

Andrii Kuslii, Consul of the Consulate of Ukraine in Edinburgh shared the Ukrainian perspective.

The CPG considered membership requests, and the Working Group Chairs provided updates to the CPG. The memberships of the Working Groups and their Terms of Reference were approved, along with the established undertakings.

During the special segment titled 'Pictures from Ukraine,' guest speaker David Pratt (DP), Contributing Foreign Editor of The Herald on Sunday, The National, and Sunday National, along with his colleague Robbie Fraser, a Scottish filmmaker, discussed their collaborative efforts in documenting the war in Ukraine through films like Pictures from Ukraine for BBC Scotland. DP highlighted the importance of forward-thinking in Ukraine's reconstruction, praised the efficiency and resilience of Ukrainians in repairing war-damaged areas and emphasized the crucial role Scotland can play in supporting these efforts. He also stressed the need to address both physical and psychological damage, particularly the often-overlooked mental health challenges in the aftermath of war.

DP mentioned their recent project, inspired by the twinning of Glasgow and Mykolaiv, which aims to use this connection to promote cultural understanding and solidarity. Photos from the Pictures from Ukraine series were shown.

## **11 June 2024**

**Attendance: 4 MSP members, 28 Non-MSPs, 17 guests**

**The overarching topic of the meeting was Ukraine's Sustainable Development and Growth.**

Guest speaker Volodymyr Havrylov, former Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine and Director of the Veterans Dozen Foundation, which supported Iron Warriors' participation in the Cateran Yomp Marathon in Scotland, was joined by Andrii Kuslii, Consul of the Consulate of Ukraine in Edinburgh. Together, they shared the Ukrainian perspective.

The CPG heard from the guest speakers, Reuben Aitken (RA), Managing Director of International Operations at Scottish Enterprise, Professor Soledad Garcia-Ferrari (SGF), Personal Chair of Global Urbanism and Resilience at the University of Edinburgh, and Benjamin Carey (BC), International Consultant at Carey Tourism, regarding their vision for Ukraine's sustainable development and growth, and the role Scotland can play in it.

RA provided an economic update on Ukraine, noting the resilience of Ukraine's economy. He outlined Scottish Enterprise's commitment to supporting Ukraine through three key initiatives: knowledge transfer and capacity building (including foreign direct investment and leveraging Ukraine's global diaspora similarly to the 'Global Scots' network), supporting Ukrainian entrepreneurs both in Ukraine and Scotland, and identifying trade opportunities. He emphasized aligning Ukraine's export catalog, through Nazovni, with Scotland's strengths and needs to build lasting trade relationships.

SGF highlighted the partnership between the University of Edinburgh and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, focusing on research, education, and Ukraine's post-conflict recovery. Joint labs address sustainability, geopolitical relations, and the impacts of war. SGF emphasized Ukraine's resilience, capacity-building for students and academics, and scholarships for displaced students. The University of Edinburgh is committed to integrating Ukrainian culture and supporting reconstruction efforts through global collaboration.

BC highlighted tourism as a vital tool for Ukraine's economic recovery, even during conflict. He stressed early planning, targeting the diaspora and solidarity tourism, and noted potential in dark, eco, and heritage tourism. BC emphasized engaging local communities and building infrastructure to ensure sustainable benefits. He urged Ukraine to begin planning for post-war tourism, leveraging its natural beauty and rich heritage.

The CPG approved membership requests and deferred updates from the Working Groups to be addressed at a future meeting.

The Highlight Discussion was dedicated to 'Voices from Ukraine,' featuring Professor Giles Sutherland, Art Critic for The Times (Scotland), who shared his experiences from visiting Ukraine in 2022. The discussion also included the Come Back Alive Foundation, Ukraine's largest nonprofit organization, which spoke about international cooperation with Ukraine, the work of their organisation, and the importance of supporting trade with Ukrainian manufacturers, including small businesses producing handmade paper and textile goods, which can be supported through online purchases.

## **24 September 2024**

**Attendance: 3 MSP members, 1 MSP, 28 Non-MSPs, 23 guests**

**The overarching topic of the meeting was the AGM and summaries of activities of the Working Groups over the last 6 months.**

Following the AGM, no changes were made to the office bearers, and the CPG then proceeded to the Business Meeting.

Guest speaker General Valerii Zaluzhnyi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland highlighted the damage to Ukraine's infrastructure and industries, and called for Scotland's support in rebuilding efforts through business partnerships and regional collaboration. He stressed the potential for cooperation in sectors like energy, infrastructure, and agriculture, noting that Scotland's expertise could benefit both countries. Ambassador also encouraged recognition of the Holodomor as genocide and thanked Scotland for its continued support.

The Scottish Refugee Council (SRC) updated the CPG on the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy and the expected outcomes of the 2024-2026 Delivery Plan, developed in partnership with the Scottish Government and COSLA. The work of the Ministerial-led Ukraine Resettlement Stakeholder Reference Group was also highlighted, with plans for the SRC to recruit 8 Lived Experience Core Group Members to help direct and oversee the implementation of the Delivery Plan.

Prior to the meeting, the Working Groups prepared summaries of their activities, which were distributed to CPG members. During the meeting, the Chairs and members of the Working Groups elaborated on these activities.

The Working Group on Health and Wellbeing updated the CPG on their membership and the outcomes of their meetings, including discussions with Ukrainian medical professionals. The group highlighted the employment challenges faced by displaced individuals from Ukraine in Scotland, particularly highly skilled professionals such as doctors, teachers, and psychologists, who are struggling to find jobs that match their qualifications. Barriers such as unclear guidelines for skill transfer, limited programs for refugee professionals, and mismatched job opportunities are holding them back. As a solution, the group suggested involving Ukrainian doctors as assistants to GPs and specialized doctors when they begin working in Scotland.

The Working Group on Resettlement is scheduled to convene in November.

The Working Group on Education has highlighted the growing collaboration between Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University (KNU) and the University of Edinburgh. One of the key initiatives is the Environmental Sustainability Lab, where five KNU students conducted research at the University of Edinburgh while completing their Master's theses in chemistry.

Another joint Lab, the Impacts of War Lab, aims to minimize war damage, restore justice, and promote sustainable regeneration in Ukraine. In this respect, an online seminar titled 'Post-War Urban Regeneration' was held to provide a platform for students and teachers from both universities to exchange insights on urban reconstruction.

KNU students participated in the Una Europa One Health Summer School, where they presented on Ukraine's food security amid the war. Designed by world-leading academics from Edinburgh and the Una Europa alliance, this program

empowered students to address real-world health challenges and contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The Working Group on Education reiterated its commitment to strengthening educational diplomacy. Initiatives like the Taras Shevchenko roundtable, jointly organized with the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures of the University of Edinburgh and supported by the Consulate of Ukraine in Edinburgh and the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB Edinburgh), continue to deepen ties and promote mutual understanding between Scotland and Ukraine.

For the Working Group on Culture, a major milestone was the launch of the Museum of Ukrainian Craft and Culture Scotland (MUCCS) on Ukrainian Independence Day, which showcases Ukrainian traditions, cultural artifacts, and provides practical information for Ukrainians living in Scotland (<https://www.muccs.org>). The first exhibition, featuring 20 works by Maria Prymachenko, was held at Perth Civic Hall, further strengthening cultural ties between Scotland and Ukraine. A partnership with Biggar Museum also facilitated talks on the destruction of Ukrainian cultural heritage.

Looking ahead, the group is eager to work with Museums Galleries Scotland on a school project focused on digital preservation and collaborate on 'The Things They Carried' research project with the University of Edinburgh, culminating in an exhibition at Edinburgh Central Library in February 2025.

The Working Group on Business and Economy focused on laying the groundwork for future activities and welcomed Nazovni to join their efforts. A key milestone was the online event 'Opening Scotland,' which attracted numerous Ukrainian exporters interested in exploring opportunities in Scotland. The event featured expert speakers from the legal and financial sectors, highlighting key differences between English and Scottish law, along with insights and practical examples from businesses established by the displaced Ukrainian community. The webinar is available in Ukrainian on YouTube. The group is also developing an investment guide for Scottish businesses and discussed the importance of empowering Ukrainian women, particularly given their increased responsibilities, to encourage greater involvement of Ukrainian businesses abroad.

The operation of the Working Groups has been extended for an additional year.

For the Highlights Discussion, the CPG was joined by Olga Rudneva (OR), CEO of the Superhumans Centre, a renowned Ukrainian facility for prosthetics, reconstructive surgery, and rehabilitation for war victims. The center is internationally recognized, with a Supervisory Board that includes the Ukrainian Minister of Health and the First Lady.

OR highlighted the healthcare crisis in Ukraine, emphasizing the strain on the system due to the ongoing war. She described the work of the Superhumans Centre, which provides prosthetics, rehabilitation, and psychological support to those injured in the conflict. The center has installed 700 prostheses and conducted over 250 surgeries, but faces significant challenges with high amputation rates, and a long waiting list for treatment. OR also stressed the need for international support, including medical professionals, prosthetic components,

and continued external assistance, as Ukraine cannot win the war without global aid.

### **MSP Members of The Group**

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Colin Beattie, Scottish National Party  
Miles Briggs, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party  
Paul O’Kane, Scottish Labour  
Alex Cole-Hamilton, Scottish Liberal Democrats  
Katy Clark, Scottish Labour  
Christine Grahame, Scottish National Party  
Ben Macpherson, Scottish National Party  
Liam McArthur, Scottish Liberal Democrats  
Clare Adamson, Scottish National Party  
Russell Findlay, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

### **Non-MSP Members of The Group**

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

#### **Individuals**

Anna Kulish  
Kseniia Smyrnova  
Yevgen Gorash  
Yulianna Shalenyk  
Bohdan Kruk  
Kvitka Perehinets  
Anastasia Klimash  
Hanna Tekliuk  
Illia Malanchuk  
Peter David Kormylo  
Zhenya Dove  
Olha Maksymiak  
Vasyl Kren  
Hannah Beaton-Hawryluk  
Tetiana Balanova  
John Hawryluk  
Steven Carr  
Maryan Pokhylyy  
Anne Yarney  
Doug Allan  
Kateryna Campbell  
Oleksandra Wierzbicka  
Olena Litvinova-Kutsai  
Dmytro Syrota



	<p>Oleksandr Chernykh  Oleksandra Novatska  Olga Biryuk  Olena Yuzkova  Juliette Lichman  Valeriya Golovina  Giles Sutherland  Peter Cooper  Joe Goldblatt  Mykola Zinchenko  Maryna Zvarych  Serhii Kuzminov  Varvara Mishyna  Daniel Smith  Anna Makhlay  Olga Niekrasova  Daria Shapovalova</p>
<b>Organisations</b>	<p>Consulate of Ukraine in Edinburgh  The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB)  Glasgow branch  The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB)  Edinburgh branch  The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB) Dundee  branch  Ukrainian Collective  Scottish Refugee Council  Center for Civil Liberties  Nadiya  Scottish Council of Global Affairs  Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC)  Feniks  Ukraine Solidarity Campaign Scotland  Nazovni  shevchenko.philia  Mission of Innocents  Carey Tourism</p>
<p><b>Group Office Bearers</b></p> <p>Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.</p>	
<b>Convener</b>	<p>Colin Beattie, Scottish National Party</p>

<b>Deputy Convener</b>	Miles Briggs, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Paul O’Kane, Scottish Labour Alex Cole-Hamilton, Scottish Liberal Democrats
<b>Secretary</b>	Anna Kulish
<b>Treasurer</b>	n/a

**Financial Benefits or Other Benefits**

**Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.**

n/a

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER**

**COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT  
(Please tick all boxes that apply)**

**I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on <X>, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:**

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties	X
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	X
Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM	X
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	X
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days’ notice of all meetings	X

Provided minutes of all meetings		
Signed	Colin Beattie MSP	
Date	21 October 2024	