

## Cross-Party Group Registration Form

<b>Name of Cross-Party Group</b>
Cross-Party Group on Women, Families & Justice
<b>Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Please state the purpose of the Group.</li><li>2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.</li><li>3. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established.</li><li>4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.</li></ol>
<p>The purpose of the Group is to focus on every aspect of women and families experiences of the justice system.</p> <p>10 years on from the Angiolini report the numbers of women in prison remains stubbornly high. The numbers of women on remand do not go on to receive a custodial sentence and many others are serving short term sentences. The disruptive effect on women and their children is detrimental: only 5% of children whose mother is imprisoned are able to remain within their family homes. The women caught up in the criminal justice system typically have a history of trauma, abuse and mental health problems. The use of community based alternatives to custody are more effective at reducing reoffending. It is therefore in the public interest that more is done to reduce the imprisonment of women and as an alternative invest in alternatives to custody that provide the support women, their children and families require.</p> <p>The families of people held in prison are often an unheard. There are a number of Scottish Government and Scottish Prison Service strategies and policies which affected families such as the Scottish Government's Prison Visitor Centre policy and SPS Family Strategy in place to provide required support. The Scottish Government estimate that between 20,000 and 27,000 children are affected by imprisonment every year. The strong cross-party support for incorporating the UNCRC in to domestic law has positive implications for children and</p>

young people affected by imprisonment and will be considered by this CPG.

The proposed CPG on Women Families & Justice is a merger of 2 CPGs that operated previously, namely the CPG Women & Justice and the CPG for Families Affected by Imprisonment. The shared agendas of both CPGs were recognised and members of both CPGs supported the merger.

The initial meeting to agree the merger of the CPGs and create a single CPG for Women, Families & Justice included a discussion on priority areas . A wide range of priority areas were identified. If the establishment of the CPG for Women, Families & Justice it is likely the topics for discussion in the next 12 months will include: the continued high numbers of women in prison, especially those on remand and serving short term sentences; community alternatives to Remand and Short Term Prison Sentences; the incarceration of children under the age of 18 in adult prisons; the need to divert women with mental health problems and learning difficulties from prison; the impact on children when a mother goes to prison; the conclusions of the Independent Review in to the Response to Deaths in Custody; the upcoming renewal of the SPS Family Strategy and the development of the new custodial estate for women.

**MSP Members of the Group**

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

Rona Mackay SNP  
Miles Briggs Conservative  
Katy Clark Labour  
Michelle Thompson SNP  
Collette Stevenson SNP  
Audrey Nicol SNP  
Maggie Chapman Scottish Green 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	Anne Pinkman Carol Dearie
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	<p>Elyse Brown  Tamara Jones  Janice Wilson  Amy McMonagle  Kevin Miller</p>
Organisations	<p>Her Majesties Inspectorate for Scotland  Justice for Women  Partners in Advocacy  Social Work Scotland  Mental Welfare Commission  Fife College for Learning &amp; Skills (Scottish Prison Service)  Shine  Circle  Community Justice Scotland  University of Strathclyde  Public Health NH Greater Glasgow and Clyde  Families Outside  Sacro  Apex Scotland  Phoenix Futures Scotland  Angus Community Justice Partnership  Tomorrows Women  Soroptimist International Scotland South Region  Criminal H Justice Voluntary Sector (CJVSF)  Access to Industry  University of Stirling  Phoenix Futures Scotland</p>

	St Marys Kenmure Turning Point Scotland Scottish Prison Service
<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>	
Convener	Rona Mackay MSP
Deputy Convener	Collette Stevenson MSP
Secretary	Anne Pinkman
Treasurer	n/a, The CPG Women, Families & Justice has no funds
<p><b>Financial Benefits or Other Benefits</b></p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Anne Pinkman provides the secretariat support for the CPG on a voluntary basis. There are no costs involved in printing of agendas and minutes as all papers are shared electronically.</p>	
<p><b>Subscription Charged by the Group</b></p> <p>Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.</p>	
<p>No subscriptions are required</p>	

**Convener Contact Details**

Name	Rona Mackay
Parliamentary address	Room m3.02
Telephone number	07825 242480

**Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct**

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Women, Families & Justice is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed	Rona Mackay
Date	11/10/21