All-Party Parliamentary Group for Survivors of Fayed and Harrods

Terms of Reference

Overview

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Survivors of Fayed and Harrods exists to work towards a fair and effective resolution for Survivors of Harrods, Fayed, and related parties. The APPG provides a parliamentary space to examine institutional responses and raise issues affecting Survivors.

What an APPG Is and What It Can and Cannot Do

What an APPG Is

An All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) is a group set up by Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords to work together on a shared area of interest. APPGs are run, led, and controlled by Parliamentarians, not by external organisations or individuals. Only Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords can be members of an APPG

External groups may attend meetings or provide information, at the invitation of the APPG but they do not run the APPG, set its agenda, or make decisions.

APPGs must follow the rules set by Parliament and are accountable to Parliament.

What an APPG Can Do

APPGs can hold meetings, raise issues in Parliament, produce reports and recommendations, and engage with government departments and external organisations.

What an APPG Cannot Do

APPGs do not have the power to summon witnesses, demand evidence, compel government action, make legal findings, act on individual cases, or interfere with police investigations, or other matters before the court.

Key Limitations

All engagement by third parties is voluntary. External groups do not control the APPG. APPGs cannot replace statutory inquiry mechanisms.

Purpose and Objectives

The following objectives are overarching and not exclusive of other goals being considered as they arise.

Short-Term Objectives

- Question third-party institutions in evidence-style meetings.
- Raise immediate issues regarding police investigations, broader institutional accountability, and the Redress Scheme.
- Seek recognition that the crimes involved are trafficking and modern slavery.

Long-Term Objectives

- Demonstrate the need for a statutory public inquiry.
- Advocate for policy and system changes with a view to preventing similar abuse from happening in future.

Scope of the APPG's work

The following sets out what areas of work the APPG will cover, and what is not within its remit, to ensure clarity for all Survivors and stakeholders.

In Scope

- Investigating institutional responses.
- Gathering views and questions from Survivors in writing before evidence-style meetings with third parties.
- Providing updates to survivors.
- Making policy recommendations.
- Examining police investigations.
- Engaging with GMC, Harrods ownership, and related corporate bodies.
- Liaising with the Home Office.
- Facilitating safe survivor engagement with Government departments.

Out of Scope

- Taking survivor testimony.
- Assisting with individual cases.
- Giving legal advice or recommending law firms.
- Rehearsing or carrying out a full inquiry.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Co-Chairs: Wendy Chamberlain MP and Dave Robertson MP
- Officers: Katie Lam MP and Sarah Russell MP
- Secretariat: Jessie Mathewson and Kathryn Sturgeon (Staff of Co-Chairs)
- External Advisors: The Survivors Trust

Officers are re-elected annually under APPG rules.

Role of External Advisors

External advisors provide information and expertise. Their role is advisory only.

They may

- Provide research and expertise.
- Attend meetings when invited.
- Support trauma-informed practice.

They cannot

- Make decisions.
- Set the APPG's agenda.
- Represent the APPG.

Parliamentarians remain responsible for all APPG decisions.

Key Deliverables

The APPG intends to provide the following outputs throughout its life:

- Thematic reports
- Letters to government and third parties
- Parliamentary briefings
- Written summaries for Survivors
- Debate on the issue in Parliament

Communications with Survivors and Stakeholders

The following will receive updates from the APPG:

- Opted-in Survivors

- The Survivors Trust
- Legal representatives

The APPG is committed to ensuring that Survivors and their legal representatives are kept informed and able to shape the APPG's work. To support this, the APPG will notify Survivors and their nominated legal representatives in advance of any APPG meeting with third parties, including institutions, police forces, government departments, or corporate bodies.

Before each such meeting, the APPG will:

- Provide advance notice of the organisation or individual being invited to speak or provide evidence.
- Share the purpose of the meeting, including the topic or issue to be discussed.
- Invite Survivors and legal representatives to share views, concerns, or suggested areas of focus.
- Gather questions submitted by Survivors and their representatives, which may be put to third parties during the meeting at the discretion of the Co-Chairs.
- Confirm any deadlines for submitting questions or feedback.
- Ensure that no personal case information is shared without explicit consent.

Summary minutes will be circulated to Survivors and Stakeholders following meetings. The APPG will provide full reports summarizing evidence and questioning and making recommendations if appropriate over the longer term.

The APPG is aware of other third parties who have an interest in the work of the APPG, including but not limited to whistleblowers. The APPG hopes to engage with these third parties in due course in relation to their experiences. However, given the focus of the APPG on Survivors, only Survivors and their legal representatives will receive ongoing updates of the APPG. Notwithstanding any updates that might be provided, no Survivors' details will be shared at any time with third parties.

Resources and Budget

Staff time for the secretariat is provided by the offices of Dave Robertson MP and Wendy Chamberlain MP and is therefore limited and variable.

This will be revisited if funding is secured with a view to long term support by The Survivors Trust.

Governance and Decision-Making

- Annual decisions made by Members at the AGM.
- Interim decisions made by Co-Chairs with Officer consultation.

- Administrative decisions handled by staff.

Timeline and Milestones

Work plan to be agreed by APPG Members. Meetings will be held according to third party availability. Outputs to be produced as evidence becomes available.

Accessibility for Disabled Participants

The APPG is committed to ensuring that all Survivors, representatives, and stakeholders — including those who are Deaf, hard of hearing, visually impaired, neurodivergent, or who have other disabilities — can participate fully and safely in its work.

To support this, the APPG will:

- Provide live captioning for all virtual meetings wherever possible.
- Ensure written materials (including summaries, minutes, and notices) are available in accessible formats on request, including large print or plain-English versions.
- Use clear, concise, jargon free language during meetings with Survivors and in written updates.
- Allow questions to be submitted in writing.
- Ensure speakers appear on camera where possible to support lipreading and to support Survivor safety.
- Make reasonable adjustments for anyone who needs additional support to participate, including additional time, breaks, or alternative ways of contributing.
- Consult with The Survivors Trust and other relevant disability organisations to improve accessibility on an ongoing basis.

Anyone who needs reasonable adjustments, or an accessible format is encouraged to email the Officers in advance so arrangements can be made.

FAQs

- **What is the difference between the work of an APPG and the work of an MP?**

Some but not all MPs who are a part of the APPG also have Survivors living in their constituency who have requested their support.

Only MPs can determine their individual relationships with their constituents. This could include writing letters on their behalf, sharing their experiences in debates, and having regular meetings outwith the ways of working of the APPG. The APPG has no input over this.

The APPG works to bring together all interested MPs under one banner, to coordinate their activities, and to advocate for all Survivors, on the basis that a coordinated cross-party campaign is both more efficient and effective.

- **Can I get my MP to attend meetings?**

You can ask your MP to attend meetings by writing or emailing them and asking them to get in touch with the public point of contact: jessie.mathewson@parliament.uk

You can find out who your MPs is and how to contact them here: https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP

Please note that there are reasons why some MPs are unable to join APPGs, for example if they are a member of the Government.

- **Can I engage with the APPG if I have not yet contacted my MP or the Met.**

Yes. All Survivors are entitled to join the APPG mailing list, regardless of whether they have contacted their MP, the Metropolitan Police, or any other agency. You do not need to have taken any previous steps in order to receive updates, follow the APPG's work, or submit questions for consideration. Survivors are welcome to join or withdraw from contact with the APPG at any time.

However, if this is the first time you are thinking about speaking about, reporting, or revisiting the crimes you experienced, we strongly recommend seeking external support. This could include support from a specialist organisation, a therapist, or another trusted professional. Accessing support can help ensure that you feel safe and prepared, and that you have someone independent to talk to as you engage with the APPG's work.

Joining the APPG mailing list does not require you to disclose anything personal, and the APPG will never share Survivor information without explicit consent.

- **How will you communicate with third parties and institutions?**

The APPG may write cross-party letters to Ministers, police forces, and other relevant bodies. These letters will normally be signed by the Officers, or by a group of supportive MPs. The APPG may ask institutions to provide written information, updates, or clarification on issues relevant to survivors. Responses are voluntary, but the APPG will record when organisations choose not to engage.

The APPG may invite third parties to attend evidence-style meetings. Attendance is voluntary, as APPGs do not have the power to compel participation. Where appropriate, the APPG may hold follow-up meetings or correspond with a third-party after such sessions to clarify issues raised or request further information.

MPs involved in the APPG may raise issues through Parliamentary written or oral questions, debates, or ministerial correspondence. These actions help to ensure public accountability from institutions.

The APPG will communicate using general or thematic concerns not personal case details.

- **What happens if an institution does not cooperate?**

Because the APPG cannot require attendance or compel answers, it will instead:

  - Record non-engagement in meeting notes or reports
  - Raise concerns in Parliament
  - Write again requesting engagement
  - Make Ministers aware of repeated refusals

- **Will the Government pay attention to you?**

APPGs operate with soft power. In our experience, APPGs that work in a coordinated way over a number of months or years can accrue significant soft power to put and keep topics on the parliamentary agenda and ultimately achieve change.

Please note that the APPG does not have the formal powers of a Select Committee to hold the Government to account or compel external organisations, like the Metropolitan Police, to attend meetings or answer MPs' questions. However, the pressure an APPG can exert by publicising an organisation's refusal to engage will in many cases mean that organisations choose to do so.

- **What steps are you taking to work in a trauma informed manner?**

APPG Officers and their staff have and are consulting with The Survivors Trust on the operation and work of the APPG on an ongoing basis. Staff undertaking regular work in relation to the APPG will be receiving appropriate training provided by The Survivors Trust.

- **Do you have a complaints process?**

We ask that you bear with us on minor delays and any oversights which might arise even when acting with the best intentions. The APPG is run jointly by the offices of Dave Robertson and Wendy Chamberlain, the Co-Chairs: both have small teams juggling multiple demands. We do not have a dedicated staff member running the APPG full-time.

If you are unhappy with something the APPG as a group has done or omitted to do, please let the Co-Chairs know on dave.robertson.mp@parliament.uk and wendy.chamberlain.mp@parliament.uk. You can also contact jessie.mathewson@parliament.uk as the Public Enquiry Point for the APPG's secretariat.

If you have a complaint about the actions of a member of the APPG we would invite you to let the Co-Chairs know and if appropriate, they can seek a resolution. However, APPG officers do not have formal powers to investigate or impose sanctions on their members.

The APPG is unable to adjudicate complaints about third parties or other institutions.

There is a formal complaints process to an Independent Standards Commissioner which can be found at: https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-financial-interests/parliamentary-commissioner-for-standards/.

Individual political parties will also have their own complaints processes.