



All Party Parliamentary Group  
Women in the Penal System

**Minutes of the meeting of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)  
Held on Tuesday 15 October 2019 at 11am  
In Committee Room 3A, House of Lords**

**Chair**

Victoria Prentis MP

**Present**

Baroness Corston

Baroness Burt

Lord Dubs

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

Baroness Howe

David Drew MP

Chris Ruane MP

**In attendance**

Frances Crook, Howard League for Penal Reform

Lorraine Atkinson, Howard League for Penal Reform

Miranda Bevan, Howard League for Penal Reform

Eleanor Careless, Howard League for Penal Reform

**Apologies**

Roberta Blackman-Woods MP

Sarah Champion MP

Neil Coyle MP

Baroness Fall

Baroness Hamwee

Wera Hobhouse MP

Philip Hollobone MP

Kate Green MP

Lord Ramsbotham

Jo Stevens MP

Wes Streeting MP

Lord Wigley

## 1 Welcome

Victoria Prentis MP welcomed everyone.

## 2 Apologies

Victoria Prentis MP reported that apologies had been received from a number of people (listed above).

## 3 Minutes

Minutes of the 2018 were approved and there were no matters arising

## 4 Election of new co-chairs and officers

The meeting commenced with the election of co-chairs and officers for 2019/20. The following were elected unanimously:

### Co-chairs:

Baroness Jean Corston

Victoria Prentis MP

Kate Green MP

### Officers:

Sarah Champion MP

Baroness Fall

Baroness Hamwee

## 5 Future plans for the APPG

Victoria Prentis MP asked Frances Crook, CEO of the Howard League to introduce plans for the APPG. Frances Crook reported that in the forthcoming year the APPG would be conducting two inquiries simultaneously. It was currently conducting an Inquiry on reducing the arrests of women. It would also begin an inquiry on sentencing following on from the previous work of the APPG. Frances Crook introduced Miranda Bevan who would be leading on the work on the sentencing of women.

It was suggested the APPG would hold two meetings per parliamentary session. One session would focus on reducing arrests and the other would look at the sentencing of women. The Howard League provided administrative support to the APPG and could provide funding to support the work of the two inquiries.

It was noted that by focusing on keeping women out of the criminal justice and penal systems completely it obviated the need to focus on resettlement or prison conditions by avoiding custody altogether.

## 6 Preparation for evidence session: Inquiry on reducing arrests

Victoria Prentis asked APPG members to decide what questions they would like to ask the witnesses from the Nelson Trust at the evidence session. Questions were allocated to parliamentarians.

Victoria Prentis MP thanked everyone and closed the AGM.