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.