

Address: APPG on Social Integration, c/o Chuka Umunna MP
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APPG on Social Integration Minutes for 2017 Parliament Inaugural Meeting on Tuesday, 18 July, 10:30 - 11:30 in Committee Room B, 1 Parliament Street

Minutes taken by: Nick Plumb, The Challenge

Present (Parliamentarians):

- Chuka Umunna MP, Lab
- Naz Shah MP, Lab
- Matt Warman MP, Con
- Holly Lynch MP, Lab
- Stuart MacDonald MP, SNP

Present (Others):

- Rich Bell, The Challenge
- Nick Plumb, The Challenge
- Justin Meadows, Office of Chuka Umunna MP

1. Introduction:

Chuka Umunna MP provided opening remarks, and welcomed members back in this parliament.

2. Election of Officers

- 2.1. It was moved that Chair of the APPG is Chuka Umunna MP. All voted in favour.
- 2.2. It was moved that Vice-Chairs are Matt Warman MP, Naz Shah MP and Holly Walker-Lynch MP. All voted in favour.
- 2.3. It was moved that the following parliamentarians will be APPG Officers:

- Chuka Umunna MP
- Naz Shah MP
- Holly Walker-Lynch MP
- Matt Warman MP
- Debbie Abrahams MP (in absence)
- Rushanara Ali MP (in absence)
- The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft (in absence)
- Jon Cruddas MP (in absence)
- Suella Fernandes MP (in absence)

Chair and Registered Contact: Chuka Umunna MP, House of Commons, London
SW1A 0AA

Secretariat: The Challenge, Mezzanine, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road,
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- Wera Hobbhouse MP (in absence)
- Stephen Kinnock MP (in absence)
- Stuart C McDonald MP
- Jim McMahon MP (in absence)
- Tulip Siddiq MP (in absence)
- Ruth Smeeth MP (in absence)

3. Inquiry into the integration of migrants: discussion of next steps

Members discussed the content of the interim report and areas which needed clarification in the final report. One area was on English language: it's not that immigrants don't want to learn the language – we, as a group, need to contextualise this better.

There was also discussion of the idea that English language proficiency isn't a problem in the UK. Chuka Umunna MP refuted this and stated that almost one million people are unable to speak English to a sufficient level and that's why much of the forthcoming report will focus on English Language training provision.

The group then discussed the process for signing off on a report. Chuka Umunna MP proposed the following:

- That a draft for comment will be circulated to all members – all members are able to provide feedback on its contents.
- Those who have actively participated in the inquiry, attending parliamentary sessions, will be listed in the report as 'members who have played a role in the inquiry', even if they provide no comment on the draft.
- Those who have commented on the draft report will also be included in this list even if they haven't participated in the inquiry prior to this.

All voted in favour.

Chuka Umunna MP stated that he would like the title of the report to be 'Integration not Demonisation.' The report is to be released in second half of August – hopefully in the week commencing 21st August.

4. Second inquiry: introduction and discussion of proposed topics

Chuka Umunna MP stated that he felt one of the big stories of the EU referendum and the 2017 General Election is the generational divide and a break down in trust between the generations. He asked whether any committees or APPGs looked into this in detail.

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Mr Umunna also raised the possibility of looking at patriotism and the extent to which it is central to the formation of shared identities.

Naz Shah MP asked whether the APPG talks enough about class and the level of interaction of people from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Ms Shah also stated that she believes there is a poverty of aspiration and expectation in Bradford and that it would be interesting to investigate the link between social mobility and social integration.

Holly Walker-Lynch MP stated that she would find it interesting to investigate how we use our social infrastructure as a means of mixing and bringing people together, and how that works in practice. Under this point of discussion, the role of the education system in bringing people from different backgrounds together was raised.

Stuart McDonald MP said that he felt issues concerning race and inequality need to be revisited.

It was agreed that the secretariat would produce a briefing laying out the options for topics for investigation in the forthcoming inquiry. This briefing will be circulated to members and a final decision will be reached.

5. AOB

Nothing discussed.