



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

3rd Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Thursday 20 February 2014

Present:

Christian Allard
John Finnie
John Mason
Siobhan McMahon

Marco Biagi (Deputy Convener)
Alex Johnstone
Margaret McCulloch (Convener)

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee decided to take items 3, on tackling sectarianism, and 4, on female genital mutilation, in private at this and future meetings.
2. **Tackling sectarianism:** The Committee took evidence from—

Dr Duncan Morrow, Chair of the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland, and Dr Michael Rosie, Member of the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland, Scottish Government.
3. **Tackling sectarianism (in private):** The Committee considered the evidence taken under item 2. It agreed to await the Scottish Government's response to the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland's report before taking any further action.
4. **Female genital mutilation (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to an inquiry and agreed to seek initial evidence from police, health and education services, before considering its approach further following publication of the Scottish Government's Violence against Women strategy and forthcoming work by the Scottish Refugee Council.
5. **Fathers and parenting (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its approach to forthcoming oral evidence.

The meeting closed at 11.39 am.

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