



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

2nd Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Thursday 30 January 2014

Present:

Christian Allard  
John Finnie  
John Mason  
Siobhan McMahon

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

The meeting opened at 9.16 am.

1. **Witness expenses:** The Committee agreed to delegate to the Convener responsibility for arranging for the SPCB to pay, under Rule 12.4.3, any expenses of witnesses in its inquiries into (a) female genital mutilation and (b) fathers and parenting.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee decided to take item 3, on its approach to its inquiry into fathers and parenting, in private at this and future meetings.
3. **Fathers and parenting (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the inquiry. It agreed to take oral evidence in March, and to consider potential witnesses at a future meeting.
4. **Female genital mutilation:** In order to inform the remit of a potential inquiry, the Committee took evidence from—

Anela Anwar, Head of Projects, Roshni;

Fatou Baldeh, Program officer, Dignity Alert and Research Forum;

Amy Edwards, Independent Sexual Violence Advocate, Rape Crisis Glasgow;

Annie Lawson, Member, Dignity Alert and Research Forum;

Jan Macleod, Manager, Women's Support Project;

Mukami McCrum, Chair, Kenyan Women in Scotland Association;

Nina Murray, Women's Policy Development Officer, Scottish Refugee Council;

Dr Oonagh O'Brien, Lecturer, Institute for International Health and Development, Queen Margaret University;

Alison Wales, Policy and Information Officer, NSPCC Scotland.

The meeting closed at 11.01 am.

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