

APPG
on
Communities of inquiry across the generations

Purpose: To provide practical models for conducting productive debates on difficult topics between young and old; to facilitate academic and expert evidence-based, transformative discussions on equality and identity (e.g. race, faith, climate, migration); to create intergenerational communities of inquiry with parliamentarians, universities and young citizens.

Members (officers underlined)

Lord Balfe of Dulwich (Conservative Life Peer)

Sir Peter Bottomley (Conservative MP Worthing West and Father of the House)

Baroness Bryan of Partick (Labour Peer)

Richard Burgon (Labour MP Leeds East)

David Davis (Conservative MP Haltemprice and Howden, former Shadow Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union)

Baroness Harris of Richmond (Liberal Democrat Life Peer)

Lord Dr Michael Hastings of Scarisbrick (Chair of SOAS Board of Trustees)

Lord John Hendy QC (Labour Peer)

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat Life Peer)

Caroline Lucas (Green Party MP Brighton Pavilion, twice former leader)

John McDonnell (Labour MP Hayes and Harlington, former Shadow Chancellor)

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon)

Baroness Pitkeathly of Caversham OBE (Labour Life Peer)

Baroness Prashar (Crossbench Life Peer)

Lord Purvis of Tweed (Liberal Democrat Life Peer)

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour MP Streatham)

Liz Saville-Roberts (Plaid Cymru Group Leader in HoC)

Stephen Timms (Labour MP East Ham, former Shadow Secretary for Work and Pensions)

Baroness Uddin (Labour Peer)

Advisory Group

Dr Emma Crewe (*Professor of Anthropology, SOAS*)

Angelo Eduardo Da Costa Mengowako (*Vocal Communities - local government representation*)

Professor John Holmwood (*Professor Emeritus, Nottingham University*)

Dr Shuruq Naguib (*Lecturer, Politlcs, Philosophy and Religion, Lancaster University*) *shuruqnaguib@lancaster.ac.uk*

Dr Sham Qayuum (*Associate Senior lecturer in Law, Policy and Leadership, SOAS*)

Dr David Renton (*Professor of practice, SOAS and KC Garden Court Chambers*)

Dr Althea-Maria Rivas (*Senior Lecturer in Global Development, Peace and Conflict, SOAS*)

Ian Stanton (*Head of Public Policy, Security and Rights AHRC*)

Dr Phyllis Starkey (*academic; councillor & Council Leader; MP Milton Keynes 1997-2010, Select Committee Chair 2005-2010*)

Sultana Tafadar KC (*Muslim Legal Action Group*)

Dr. Rowan Williams (former Archbishop and Honorary Professor of Contemporary Christian Thought, University of Cambridge)

MPs, peers, experts and civil society are rethinking political and social communication to protect and revitalise democracy in the UK. What is 'identity politics' and what are the 'culture wars'? What is 'gesture politics'? Does it matter? How can different groups be true to their values and respect the values of others when emotions run high? Why do older and younger generations avoid discussing complex issues with each other? How can we work with local government? We need to rethink political and social communication and knowledge management by replacing divisive debate with evidence-based discussion. By establishing intergenerational communities of inquiry we will ensure the debate itself doesn't choke freedom of expression at source. The APPG will facilitate these important conversations through transformative debates to unlock knowledge and understanding in exciting ways by:

- 1. *running events with academics/experts, parliamentarians and the public to revive trust in democracy and in expertise***
- 2. *providing practical models for how to conduct productive debates on difficult topics; these models will be useful in a wide range of contexts***
- 3. *conducting intergenerational inquiries on complex topics so that MPs, peers academics, students and young people in communities can access and share reliable evidence to promote critical debate***

This APPG will combine expertise in the Commons and the Lords with expert academic and practitioner knowledge from relevant disciplines including the arts and humanities, education, law, medicine, science and technology. This means working effectively across parties and across sectors and considering issues that range from equality legislation and the environment to social media matters.

APPG secretariat

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The *Influencing Corridors of Power* team (ICOP) is well established, widely trusted and effective at increasing and improving communication between parliamentarians, academics, students and young people in work across and beyond the HE sector, so that key players can work together productively. The ICOP one-page expert briefings serve to demystify key topics that need to be addressed urgently and are a boon for busy MPs and peers. As such, ICOP is perfectly positioned to support Westminster in its work to address these big questions. ICOP provides an experienced secretariat, with a well-established track record of working with parliamentarians through SOAS ICOP: <https://blogs.soas.ac.uk/cop/icop-briefings/> Please contact Professor Alison Scott-Baumann as150@soas.ac.uk for more information.