

## **All-Party Group on Human Rights and Peace**

### **Minutes of Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2013**

**Present:** Bethan Jenkins (Chair), Rhodri Glyn-Thomas Jocelyn Davies, Christine Chapman, Dr John Cox, Jane Harries

**Apologies:** Julie Morgan

#### **1 Palestine-related issues**

OPIN-2013-0186 (Opposing illegal settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory) received 17 signatories. This was a good response as members of the government were not supposed to sign Statements of Opinion.

John reported that a petition on this same topic had been rejected by the Clerk to the Petitions Committee because international issues did not come under the National Assembly remit. The would-be petitioners thought it intolerable that they were prevented from petitioning on an issue whilst AMs could do so as a Statement of Opinion. The committee agreed to write to the Chair of the Petitions Committee asking for clarification regarding the rules as to what can / cannot be considered by that committee.

Jane referred to and agreed to re-circulate a letter received from Alan Davies concerning the correct labelling of products from Israel and the Occupied Territories, so that the committee can determine whether there any further actions is appropriate.

#### **2 Report from the Petitions Committee on Academi Heddwch Cymru / Wales Peace Institute:**

The Petitions Committee has issued its report supporting the principle of an Academi Heddwch Cymru / Wales Peace Institute and recommended that the National Assembly should facilitate further liaison between the petitioners, academia and civil society. The report has been forwarded to the First Minister's office before being scheduled for a debate in the Senedd

#### **3 Review of Bruce Kent meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November:**

This had gone well. Bethan will circulate notes from the meeting.

#### **4 Bradley Manning:**

10 AMs had signed the open letter supporting Bradley (Chelsea) Manning.

#### **5. Admin matters:**

The new rules concerning Cross-Party Group include having an Annual General Meeting (with advance notice of its agenda) and tabling Minutes and Reports. It was agreed that we should have one business meeting every session (i.e. 3 per year) and one or more public meetings, starting January.