



all-party parliamentary group

Safeguarding in faith settings



All Party Parliamentary Group on Safeguarding in Faith Settings Inquiry into Positions of Trust within Faith Settings – Evidence Session

22 October 2019

Officers present:

Sarah Champion MP (Chair)
Baroness Sheila Hollins (Vice Chair)
Tim Farron MP (Secretary)

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Safeguarding in Faith Settings met on Tuesday 22nd October to hear the evidence for its inquiry into ‘positions of trust within faith settings’ and whether or not the definitions included in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 should be extended to include roles within faith settings.

A number of individuals presented their evidence at the meeting:

- Dr Daniel Rhind (Loughborough University) and Emily Hilton (NSPCC)
- Jim Foy (National LADO Network)
- Jan Murphy (United Reformed Church in Great Britain)
- Samuel Barker (Representing ex-JW Advocates)

A number of questions were raised by officers of the group present, and comments made about the potential benefits or concerns around extending the positions of trust. Questions and comments were also received from other attendees observing the session, including survivors of abuse within faith settings. Overall, the evidence given supported the need for a change in the law in order to provide further protection for 16 & 17 yr olds, whilst also protecting their rights. The oral evidence given, together with other written evidence submitted to the APPG, will inform a report to be published as soon as parliamentary business allows.