

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Single-Parent Families

Minutes: Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Meeting on Child Maintenance Calculations

Tuesday 16 December 2025 | Room W3, Westminster Hall

Apologies:

Baroness Lister; Rushinara Ali MP; Dr Ellie Chowns MP; Joy Morrissey MP; Lorraine Beavers MP; Matt Bishop MP

In attendance:

Dr Rupa Huq MP – Chair; Michelle Welsh MP; Rachael Maskell MP; Simon Hoare MP; Sarah Champion MP; Martin Rhodes MP; Apsana Begum MP; Bayo Alaba MP; Tracy Gilbert MP

External speakers:

Susan Harkness (University of Bristol, Professor of Social Policy at the School for Policy Studies); Philippa Kemp (Communications and Participation Manager at One Parent Families Scotland); Alessandra (Lived Experience Expert); Sian (Lived Experience Expert)

Meeting notes:

1. Welcome and introductions

- The Chair welcomed everyone attending the meeting and carried out introductions.
- The secretariat provided an overview of the plans for the next year.

2. Election of officers

- The following Officers were elected:
 - Chair and registered contact – Dr Rupa Huq MP (Labour)
 - Officer – Joshua Fenton-Glynn MP (Labour)
 - Officer – Michelle Welsh MP (Labour)
 - Officer – Lord Balfé (Conservative)

3. Income and expenditure statement

- The income and expenditure statement was approved.

4. Discussion on child maintenance calculations

- Dr Rupa Huq MP gave an overview of the focus of the meeting and introduced the speakers.
- Philippa Kemp gave an overview of the findings and recommendations on calculations from the report: *Better for everyone: a new vision for child maintenance*.
- Professor Susan Harkness gave an overview of findings from the project: *Family Change, Wellbeing and Social Policy*, including comparisons to international child maintenance systems and whether current models are suitable to modern family structures.
- Alessandra gave an overview of her lived experience with the Child Maintenance Service and the calculations process.
- Sian gave an overview of her lived experience with the Child Maintenance Service and the calculations process.
- A short question and answer segment took place.