

## **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 Balfe (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.