

**NOTE: Meeting with Association of Palestinian Communities in Scotland; Palestine Alliance**

**Tuesday 16 June 2015**

**Attendees:**

Dr. Allan, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages

Dr. Issam Hijawi, Association of Palestinian Communities in Scotland; Palestine Alliance

Vicky McGraw, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Rights Based Learning Management Group

Albie O'Neill, Association of Palestinian Communities

Kathryn Burrows, Scottish Government

Paul McWatt, Education Scotland

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION POINTS**

<p>Association of Palestinian Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline of background incident pertaining to inappropriate teaching and learning material about Palestine in a North Lanarkshire school</li> <li>• Indication of positive engagement with North Lanarkshire Council personnel about this matter</li> <li>• Seeking assurance that this kind of material is not used in Scottish schools</li> <li>• Clear affirmation of a desire to move forward to ensure that this is not repeated; desire to seek opportunities to work in partnership to explore possibilities of how Palestinians in Scotland can support learners to understand the story of Palestine</li> <li>• Outline of recent engagement with British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme to develop partnerships between schools/local authorities in Scotland and Palestine</li> <li>• Outline of work with representatives from numerous local authorities in response to the North Lanarkshire incident to develop appropriate teaching and learning materials</li> <li>• Enquiry if financial support would be available from Scottish Government for the current initiatives (to develop teaching and learning materials, and partnerships between schools in Palestine and Scotland)</li> <li>• Clarification of need for funding to support this development: for example, to release teachers from school to write the material; for design and reproduction of materials; for production of audio-visual resources from partnership visits</li> <li>• Glasgow City Council's Lord Provost has offered £2000 to enable Glasgow teachers to support this development</li> <li>• Requested to meet again with Dr. Allan to discuss progress</li> </ul>
<p>Dr. Allan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement of offence caused in this situation and affirmation that this is not indicative of Scottish Government's position</li> <li>• Commitment to support high quality education that appreciates equality and diversity within Scotland</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed to meet again with the group in September</li> <li>• Agreed to explore if funding was available within Scottish Government and Education Scotland to support this development</li> </ul>
Education Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently engaged in supporting the cross-authority working group in scoping out the development of appropriate learning and teaching materials</li> <li>• New materials should not be seen as a 'stand-alone' resource, but must be located within the context of Curriculum for Excellence</li> <li>• Suggested support: engage colleagues from across the organisation who have expertise in developing such curricular resources</li> <li>• Suggested support: engage with representatives of APC to review progress and content of this development</li> </ul>

## ACTIONS

	Action	Comments
Scottish Government / Education Scotland	Dr Allan's Office to arrange ministerial meeting with APC for September	Suggest that this should be rearranged for a time when progress has been made and can be reviewed; this can be monitored through PMcW's engagement with Vicky McGraw.  This amendment would need to be included in feedback to Dr Hijjawi
	PMcW to explore possibility of funding of this development within Scottish Government and Education Scotland	Ms White MSP has previously engaged with Vicky McGraw around this development work through the cross-party Palestine group; Vicky reports that Ms White thought that funding may be available from Scottish Government. Suggest enquiring if this is an intention of the group.  Suggest making enquiries with relevant teams in Scottish Government and Education Scotland (PMcW): Craig Flunkert (SG) Rachel Barrie (SG) Duncan Isles (SG) Gita Sharkey (SG) Phil Alcock (SG) Barbara Morton (SG) Muriel McKenzie (SG) Joe Walker (ES) Lynne Robertson (ES)  APC would need to be informed of the outcome of these enquiries
	PMcW to engage colleagues across Education Scotland to offer support and advice on the development of this resource in line with current standards and practice	Meeting has been scheduled for 12 <sup>th</sup> August in Education Scotland's office in Glasgow
	PMcW to meet with representatives of APC to review progress and content of development.	Details to be agreed with Vicky McGraw once development has progressed
APC	To convene a reference group to review progress and content of the development	
	If funding is identified, further details about requirements and costs would need to be provided	

