

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis

Annual Report 2011

Update of APPG activities between June 2010 and June 2011

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Message of Thanks

The APPG would like to thank all of the individuals and organisations working in TB control and international development who have provided information, guidance and support throughout the year. Particular thanks to RESULTS UK who provide support to, and host the APPG Secretariat and Genus Pharmaceuticals which provides funding for this role. In addition, thank you to the staff of the APPG Officers for their continued assistance.



About the APPG on Global Tuberculosis

The APPG on Global Tuberculosis was established in 2006 and is chaired by Andrew George MP. There are four vice-Chairs of the APPG - Virendra Sharma MP, Mark Lancaster MP, Baroness Masham of Ilton and Annette Brooke MP. The overall purpose of the APPG is to raise the profile of the global tuberculosis epidemic (which includes the growing incidence of TB in the UK) and to help accelerate efforts to meet international TB control targets.

The Group has a growing membership of Parliamentarians from both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. APPG membership is restricted to Members of Parliament, but other interested parties, such as non-governmental organisations, academics and practitioners may be invited to attend meetings.

The secretariat for the APPG is hosted by <u>RESULTS UK</u>, a non-profit advocacy organisation that works on TB as part of a wider campaign to eradicate diseases of poverty.

Key Objectives of the APPG

- To campaign for TB to be made a political priority for the UK Government, Political
 Parties and the international community;
- To co-ordinate informed Parliamentary activity on TB;
- To provide a forum for debate and discussion on issues relating to the global TB problem among Parliamentarians and other key stakeholders;
- To promote effective and sustainable solutions that will have a positive impact on meeting global TB control targets;
- To ensure that political and financial commitment for TB control from the UK
 Government and other sources is proportionate to the global need;
- To work in partnership with other All-Party Groups on cross-cutting issues;
- To build relationships with and support the activities of Parliamentarians in other countries who are working towards similar objectives;
- To be recognised nationally and internationally as an influential and effective partner in the fight against TB.

Proposed Activities

- Facilitate regular, public meetings in Parliament with expert speakers;
- To co-ordinate informed Parliamentary activity on TB;
- Utilise all appropriate Parliamentary procedures and opportunities to promote TB and the work of the Group;
- Organise educational visits to high burden countries to improve understanding of how
 TB control is managed in different settings;
- Monitor and evaluate the role of the UK Government in fighting TB both in the developing world and in the UK;
- Prepare reports for relevant Ministries containing the findings and recommendations of the APPG;
- Organise private meetings with Ministers and Government departments to share findings and recommendations of the APPG;
- Monitor international trends and policies relating to TB control and prepare responses where appropriate.

Structure and Membership of the APPG

The APPG consists of Parliamentary Officers and Members. The APPG held its AGM and election of officers on 23rd June 2011.

Officers:

Following the 2011 AGM the officers of the Group were:

Chair: Andrew George MP

Vice-Chairs: Virendra Sharma MP

Mark Lancaster MP Annette Brooke MP

Baroness Masham of Ilton

Members:

In June 2011 the APPG had 50 members. Members sit in both the House of Lords and House of Commons and from all of the major political parties.

In addition to members, the APPG has a 'support network comprising almost 300 individuals working in varied areas of health and international development. The size of the support network has grown from 250 in June 2010 to 300+ in June 2011. The Network is an informal group that is kept informed of the work of the APPG through various communication methods. Members of the Network also provide information and guidance to the APPG secretariat and to Parliamentarians directly.

The support network comprises of:

- NHS/Health Protection Agency
- Research/Academic Organisations
- Non-Governmental Organisation
- Governmental Organisation DH/ DFID
- UN/ International Organisation
- Private Sector

The vast majority of support network contacts – 150 + - involves NHS/Health protection Agency staff followed by Academics, NGOs, Government organisations (DH & DFID), UN/International organisations and private sector respectively.

The APPG secretariat comprises one full-time coordinator who is hosted and supported by RESULTS UK (an advocacy NGO).

Activity in the past year: Communication

Newsletters

Newsletters were produced in June, August, October and December (2010), as well as January and March (2011). Newsletters are emailed to APPG members, and to the APPG support network, and posted on the APPG website. Back copies of the newsletters can be found at: http://www.appg-tb.org.uk/publications.html

Monthly update reports to Parliamentarians

In order to keep APPG members up to date with new developments and issues in TB and international development, a monthly update report is circulated. This highlights the main points of interest and news that have occurred in the past month, and also informs members of current and future APPG activity.

Website

The website is a vital tool used by the APPG and maintained by its secretariat. It is regularly updated to provide details of APPG news, activities and events. The website is also a platform to share documents and publications-both from the APPG and other TB-related organisations.

Activity emails to support network

In order to keep the APPG support network updated with the work of the APPG, regular updates on activity are emailed. These are particularly relevant around major events such as World TB Day. Invitations to open APPG meetings are also generally sent to the support network.

Bi-monthly Update for the Informal Network of Parliamentary Groups

This new initiative started at the end of 2009 was intended to strengthen links and facilitate exchange of information between organisations and individuals involved in parliamentary work to fight TB. Renewed and sustained effort will be needed to expand this work in the coming year.

Correspondence

Letters are sent by APPG officers to raise issues of concern with relevant decision makers. In the last year a number of letters have been sent to DFID and DH relating to prevention and treatment of TB in the UK and globally.

Activity in the year June 2010 - June 2011

Summary of meetings in Parliament

Date	Title of meeting
July 2010	Tuberculosis in the UK: Why are rates increasing? Who is most affected? What
	can be done?
July 2010	visit to the Mobile TB Screening Unit
September 2010	London: Tuberculosis capital of Europe?
October 2010	Roundtable discussion on the London TB Screening Mobile X-Ray Unit
November 2010	WHO Stop TB Partnership briefing on the Revised Global Plan to Stop
December 2010	Women, Communities and Tuberculosis
March 2011	TB and Homelessness: tackling the health needs of rough sleepers
March 2011	Tackling TB and HIV in Africa

For open meetings, all APPG members and the external support network were sent electronic or paper invitations to the above meetings. Meetings are advertised on the All-Party Notices and APPG website. In addition, the APPG secretariat invited other targeted Parliamentarians to each meeting. Non-APPG Parliamentarians were identified by their stated interests and the relevance of these to the meeting topic.

The topics of the meetings were decided by a variety of means. In some cases it was a topic that the APPG Chairs and Vice Chairs thought was important and needed to be highlighted. In other cases, the APPG was approached by NGOs and other organisations to raise awareness of a particular issue.

The APPG strives to give exposure to both issues facing TB in the UK and globally, as well as highlighting cross-cutting issues e.g. TB drug resistance.

The following pages give a brief summary of the APPG meetings held in Parliament.

Where available, presentations from APPG meetings can be found on the website: http://www.appg-tb.org.uk/meetings.html

Activity in the Past year: APPG on Global TB meetings

Meeting Topic: Tuberculosis in the UK: Why are rates increasing? Who is most affected? What

can be done?

Date/time: 7th July 2010, 2:30 – 4pm,

Venue: Committee Room 7, Houses of Parliament

Speakers:

Virendra Sharma MP, vice-Chair of APPG on Global TB

- Dr. Priscilla Nkwenti, Chief Executive of the Black Health Agency
- Mike Mandelbaum, Chief Executive of TB Alert
- Alistair Story, Clinical Lead, Find and Treat Project

Brief outline:

Tuberculosis is thought by many people to be a disease of the past in the UK. But rates of TB have been rising in Britain over the last 20 years, and jumped by over 5% last year. In 2009 there were over 9000 cases of TB and over 400 deaths caused by the disease in the UK. Anyone can catch and develop TB, but the majority of cases tend to be focussed on certain groups. It is often some of the most marginalised communities who suffer most from this disease including the homeless, refugees and ethnic minority groups. This meeting focussed on discussion around why rates are increasing, who is most affected and what could be done to reverse this trend.

Attendance: 4 parliamentarians and over 30 other stakeholders

Meeting topic: MP's visit to the mobile TB Screening Project

Date/time: Tuesday13th July, 2010 10:30 -12:30pm

Venue: Whitechapel Mission, east London

Speakers: N/A

Brief outline:

This visit gave MPs the chance to see the Mobile X-ray Screening Unit in action, as well as the chance to speak with staff and 'peer educators' about the work and challenges facing the Mobile X-ray Unit. The Unit screens homeless people in London, and across the south of England for tuberculosis. Run by the Find and Treat team, as well as screening those at risk from the disease they also support service users with accessing and continuing the treatment they need. Find and Treat also run a peer-to-peer education project – allowing those with personal experience of homelessness to convey messages about screening and treatment to those in similar situations.

Attendance: 2 parliamentarians

Meeting topic: London: Tuberculosis capital of Europe? **Date/time:** Tuesday 14th September 2010, 12:15 – 1:45pm

Venue: Committee Room 17, Houses of Parliament

Speakers:

Annette Brooke MP, Vice-Chair, APPG on Global TB

- Chrispin Kambili, New York City's Director of Tuberculosis Control
- Ibrahim Abubakar, Head of the Tuberculosis Section, Health Protection Agency
- Nick Relph, Chair of the London TB Commissioning Board

Brief outline:

The meeting focused on TB in London and that it accounts for 40% of tuberculosis cases in the UK. There was Concern that rates had been increasing for the last twenty years and experts discussed the recommendation that all children in the city should be vaccinated against TB as well the urgent need to tackle TB in the city. Comparisons were drawn between other European cities and to New York, which faced a similar threat from high and rising rates of TB in the 1990s.

Health authorities in London outlined that they had just undertaken a review of the tuberculosis strategy and that commissioning of TB services was being reconfigured.

Attendance: 3 parliamentarians and over 25 other stakeholders

Meeting topic: Roundtable discussion on the London TB Screening Mobile X-Ray Unit (MXU)

Hosted by Baroness Sue Masham of Ilton, APPG TB Vice-Chair

Date/time: Thursday 7th October 2010, Room 3A

Venue: House of Lords, 11am - 1pm

Speakers: N/A

Brief outline:

The Roundtable discussion sought to identify whether funding for the future of the MXU service could be secured, and potentially expanded in the future. Discussions were held under Chatham House rules and involved a brief introduction to the work of the MXU, recap on the history of its funding, potential funding sources and issues funding the service, as well as options for the future.

Attendance:

Baroness Sue Masham, Vice-Chair, APPG on Global TB
Nick Relph, Chair of the London TB Commissioning Board
Professor John Watson, Head of Respiratory Diseases Department, HPA
Alistair Story, Clinical Lead, Find and Treat
Dr Simon Tanner, Director of Public Health, NHS London
Pamela Chesters, Health Advisor to the Mayor of London

James Cleverly AM, London Assembly Member for Bexley and Bromley and Member of the Health and Public Services Committee
Mike Smith, Coordinator, APPG TB

Meeting topic: WHO Stop TB Partnership briefing on the Revised Global Plan to Stop TB MP's

Briefing

Date/time: Tuesday 2nd November 2010, 2:30 – 4pm **Venue:** Committee Room 18, Houses of Parliament

Speakers: Virendra Sharma MP, Vice-Chair, APPG on Global TB & Paul Nunn, WHO Stop TB

Partnership

Brief outline:

This was a private briefing for MPs and their staff to introduce the WHO Stop TB Partnership's new Revised Global Plan to Stop TB. It was an informal meeting where the WHO representative presented the main points of the report and fielded questions from participants.

Attendance: 4 parliamentarians and over 10 other stakeholders

Meeting topic: APPG on Global TB Breakfast reception: Women, Communities and

Tuberculosis

Date/time: 15th December 2010, 9:15 – 11am

Venue: Atlee Suite, Portcullis House

Speakers:

- Grace Mukasa, Chief Executive of AMREF UK
- Dr Antima Gupta, Fellow, UNESCO-L'Oreal For Women in Science Programme 2010
- Birkbeck, University of London
- Andrew Jack, Financial Times journalist
- Nichola Cadge, DFID, Health Services Team

Brief outline:

The Breakfast reception was designed to raise awareness of TB as a major cause of death among women in the developing world and particularly women of childbearing age. Issues discussed at the meeting included:

- Greater risk of TB infection for pregnant women,
- Increased likelihood of passing the disease onto their children
- Children being forced to leave school to care for their mother
- Greater barriers women face in accessing TB services than men
- Stigma around TB

Attendance: 12 parliamentarians and over 60 other stakeholders.

Meeting topic: TB and Homelessness: tackling the health needs of rough sleepers

Date/time: 3rd March 2011, 11:30 – 1:30pm

Venue: House of Lords, Room 3A

Speakers:

- Baroness Masham of Ilton, Vice-Chair of the APPG on TB (meeting chair)
- Alistair Story, Clinical Lead, Find and Treat and Mobile X-ray TB Screening Unit
- Duncan Shrubsole, Director of Policy & External Affairs, Crisis
- Cllr Julie Mills, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
- Jennifer Leonard, Head of Prevention and Wellbeing, NHS Commissioning Support for London

Brief outline:

Attendees at the meeting discussed how best to ensure effective TB screening and treatment for rough sleepers and also consider how TB fits in to the wider health needs of homeless people.

Attendees: 4 parliamentarians and over 25 other stakeholders.

Meeting topic: Tackling TB and HIV in Africa

Date/time: Tuesday 22nd March 2011, 3 – 4:30pm

Venue: Committee Room 12, Houses of Parliament

Speakers:

- Dr Lucica Ditiu, Executive Secretary of the Stop TB Partnership
- Stephen O'Brien MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International
- Thokozile Phiri-Nkoma, Tikondane PLWHA Women Support Group
- Alasdair Reid, HIV/TB Advisor, UNAIDS

Brief outline:

The meeting sought to highlight TB-HIV co-infection and discuss what further measures are needed to tackle this issue.

Nearly a quarter of all HIV-associated deaths are caused by tuberculosis. In some countries with higher rates of HIV, up to 80% of people with TB test positive for HIV. HIV infection also makes TB harder to diagnose, speeds up the progression of TB, and TB occurs earlier in the course of HIV infection than other infections.

Integration of HIV and TB services in areas of high burden for both diseases is now starting to take place. Screening of patients diagnosed with one of the diseases for the other is also improving, but only 5% of people living with HIV have been screened for TB, more progress is needed.

Attendance: 1 parliamentarian and over 30 other stakeholders.

Activity in the past year: External meetings and conferences

IUATLD conference, Berlin, November 2010

The APPG Secretariat attended the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Conference in Berlin and ran a workshop on 'Parliamentarians fighting Tuberculosis: How MPs can raise the profile of TB following the MDG Review Summit'.

Activity in the past year: Reports and Publications

Parliamentarian's delegation on tuberculosis - Kenya

The purpose of the delegation was to learn more about how Kenya is addressing major health challenges, specifically TB and HIV, and the impact of the UK Government's support to Kenya through different bilateral and multilateral channels.

The report – compiled by APPG on Global TB, Advocacy to control TB international (ACTION) and RESULTS UK – focused on various aspects of tuberculosis including MDR TB, health system strengthening, the Kenyan Governments action to tackle TB and diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis inquiry into the UK's role in controlling TB worldwide, 'The UK's Response to global tuberculosis'

This report seeks to identify the major challenges to tacking global tuberculosis and the way the UK Government can respond to this. It makes five key recommendations for how the UK could most effectively use its resources to support global efforts towards TB control. The five key recommendations are:

- Develop and promote models of community and patient-centred TB care and control, built around strong health systems; and promote integration of TB control within wider health services
- Priority investment in research for new tools
- DFID annual assessment of its contribution towards TB control
- Coordination of TB advocacy
- Address HIV-TB co-infection

Activity in the past year: Parliamentary Questions

In 2010/2011 (up to March 2011) there were 30 questions raised in Parliament on TB issues. 23 were written questions and 7 oral questions. 4 of the questions were tabled in the House of Lords and the remaining 26 in the House of Commons.

A breakdown of TB PQs:

Subject	Number of PQs	Subject	Number of PQs	
TB in the UK		TB globally		
Find and Treat	2	Global plan to Stop TB	1	
Local/National Incidence	6	Maternal health	3	
Policy and funding	3	TB in conflict	1	
Diagnosis	1	GFATM	2	
HIV/TB	1	HIV/TB	4	
Drug resistance	1	Health worker shortages	2	
TB and Homelessness	1	Research & Development	2	
Total	15	Total	15	
Attributable to APPG	Unknown*	Attributable to APPG	Unknown [†]	

In addition, ahead of World TB Day 2011, APPG Chair Andrew George MP tabled an EDM (1552) on tuberculosis. The motion stated:

That this House is concerned at the continuing rise in the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB), both globally and in the UK; notes that TB is the cause of nearly 5,000 deaths per day and that it is the leading cause of death of HIV-infected people in the developing world; recognises that the epidemic of TB drug resistance is being further inflamed by poor care management and drug use and that research into desperately needed new diagnostic tools, drugs and vaccines is severely under-resourced; and calls on the Government to mark World Tuberculosis Day on 24 March 2011 by committing the UK to seek maximum multiand bilateral aid effectiveness in efforts to combat this preventable and curable disease.

The EDM was signed by 40 MPs.

Parliamentary questions, statements and debates on TB can be found on the APPG website: http://www.appg-tb.org.uk/tb parliament.html

^{*} Due to change in secretariat staff

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Activity in the past year: MP visits and briefings

Find and Treat, Mobile X-Ray Unit Visit, London, July 2010

The APPG Secretariat arranged for parliamentarians to visit the Mobile X-Ray Unit. The Find & Treat and the Mobile X-ray Unit (MXU) work alongside front-line services to tackle TB among hard to reach groups. They are a multidisciplinary team of TB nurse specialists, social and outreach workers, radiographers and expert technicians. Their job is to find cases of active TB early and support patients to take a full course of treatment and get cured.

MPs' meeting with Anne Milton MP, Minister for Public Health, Department of Health, March 2011

APPG on Global TB vice-Chair Baroness Masham requested a meeting with Public Health Minister Anne Milton MP to discuss rising rates of TB in the UK, particularly in UK cities. Two experts in TB policy and epidemiology - Mike Mandelbaum, CEO of TB Alert, Ibrahim Abubakar, and Head of the Tuberculosis Section at the Health Protection Agency – attended the meeting.

Various issues were discussed including:

- TB in the UK latest figures
- TB under the new Public Health Framework
- Increasing awareness of TB in our communities and among healthcare professionals, especially for high risk groups and regions
- Addressing TB in our cities TB commissioning on a regional/city-wide level?
- Commissioning Support for London consultation
- Public Health Outcomes Framework

Other Briefings

Numerous personal briefings and meetings on the future work of the APPG and TB more generally were conducted with a number of parliamentarians throughout the year.

Activity in the past year: Groups

UK Coalition to Stop TB

The APPG continued as an active member of the UK Coalition. The aim of the Coalition is to increase the level of awareness, commitment and political will to stop TB through a unified voice and coordinated actions. The Coalition is made up of over 30 organisations ranging from NGOs and research organisations to patient involvement groups. All are based (or have an office) in the UK. The Coalition works through smaller working groups. The APPG secretariat attends meetings of the group and keeps APPG members informed of latest developments and projects being carried out by the coalition.

Stop TB Partnership

The APPG is a member of the Stop TB Partnership's Global Partnership to Stop TB. The Stop TB Partnership, called the Stop TB Initiative at the time of its inception, was established in 1998. Its aim is to realise the goal of eliminating TB as a public health problem and, ultimately, to achieve a world free from TB. It comprises a network of international organisations, countries, donors from the public and private sectors, governmental and nongovernmental organisations and individuals that have expressed an interest in working together to achieve this goal.

Informal Network of Parliamentary Groups

The APPG Secretariat is continuing efforts to establish links between parliamentarians in different countries with an interest in tackling TB. A bi-monthly newsletter targeted at organisations and individuals' working with parliamentarians on TB has been started and progress is being made working with, among others, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to foster cross country, parliamentary links.

Activity in the past year: World TB Day 2011

The APPG was involved in a number of activities to highlight World TB Day on March 24th:

- 1. The APPG's Chair Andrew George MP wrote an article for the in-house Parliamentary publication "The House magazine". The article highlighted the opportunity that World Tuberculosis Day provides to emphasise the call for action to end the continuing suffering caused by this global pandemic.
- 2. Parliamentary Questions were tabled in the House of Commons focusing on TB and maternal health globally, as well as new diagnostic tools and TB in children research.
- 3. An Early Day Motion (EDM) was tabled highlighting TB issues ahead of World TB Day. The motion received the support of 40 MPs.

Evaluation of activities - Progress against APPG objectives

Key Objectives of the APPG	Activity	
To campaign for TB to be made a political	Members of the Group held meetings, debates, asked Parliamentary	
priority for the UK Government, political	Questions and put down motions to raise the profile of TB. This has	
parties and the international community	included meetings with DFID and DH Ministers in the last year (June	
	2010 – June 2011) and engaging with civil servants working on TB	
	issues. The APPG has continued to work closely with the Stop TB	
	Partnership and WHO, particularly around the Revised Global Plan to	
	Stop TB. Greater efforts need to be made between the APPG on Global	
	TB and parliamentarians in other countries who share an interest in	
	tackling TB.	
To co-ordinate informed parliamentary A range of meetings and briefings were held to inform parlian		
activity on TB	on the latest TB developments. This included working with	
	stakeholders to facilitate on-site visits to TB services both in the UK and	
	abroad. PQs were asked on both UK and Global TB. See activity in the	
	past year for further information.	
To provide a forum for debate and	Several meetings were held and oral parliamentary questions took	
discussion on issues relating to the global	place in the Commons and Lords. Despite numerous efforts the APPG	
TB problem among Parliamentarians and	was unable to secure any adjournment debates on global TB in the last	
other key stakeholders	year; however engaging parliamentarians to put forward debates on TB	
	should continue over the coming year.	
To promote effective and sustainable	The APPG on Global TB has been effective at providing a forum for	
solutions that will have a positive impact	discussion on policy relating to TB. This includes general meetings and	
on meeting global TB control targets	a roundtable discussion with stakeholders on issues including TB and	
	homelessness etc.	
To work in partnership with other All-Party	Worked closely with APPG's on HIV and Aids, APPG on Malaria and	
Groups on cross-cutting issues	NTD's and Population, Development and Reproductive Health. In	
	addition to working with the APPG's mentioned an increased	
	cooperation with other APPG's that have a UK focus would be desirable	
	going forward.	

To build relationships with and support the	A renewed focus on this is required in the coming year, although a	
activities of Parliamentarians in other	productive meeting was held between some APPG members and	
countries who are working towards similar	members of the Kenyan Parliament during the Kenyan delegation.	
objectives	There are a number of opportunities in the coming year to strengthen	
	relationships with other parliamentarians working towards similar	
	objectives of the APPG on Global TB.	
To be recognised nationally and	The APPG coordinator has continued as an active membership of the	
internationally as an influential and	UK Coalition to Stop TB committee and the APPG continues to work	
effective partner in the fight against TB	with WHO Stop TB partnership Secretariat on tackling TB.	

Next steps and future direction

- 1. Re-establish the APPG and recruit new members to the Group.
- 2. Engage with stakeholders to ascertain areas of joint working going forward
- 3. Continue and increase parliamentary engagement through the scale-up of MPs meetings and visits in the UK and internationally. Continued efforts will also be needed to invite parliamentarians to other TB and global health events and conferences. More effective briefing materials and a greater emphasis on meeting with parliamentarians who may have an interest in TB policy need to be pursued.
- 4. Work to raise the parliamentary profile of the group including continuing to ask written PQs, asking regular oral PQs and securing more regular adjournment debates.
- 5. Continue to positively critique UK policy and suggest new policy direction, including the product of a report reviewing UK global TB policy.
- 6. Build links with parliamentarians working on TB in other countries, and attempt to coordinate messages where and if appropriate.
- 7. Continue to work closely with other APPGs on cross-cutting issues. This should include APPGs working on UK issues, as well as international development.
- 8. Regular contact to be arranged between APPG officers and ministers and/or the APPG secretariat and Departmental advisors.
- 9. The APPG will build relationships with Shadow Ministers for Health and International Development and engage them on the issue of TB.

Confirmed activities

23th June 2011 – AGM and New Tools to tackle TB meeting
July 2011 – Membership drive and compilation of forward work programme
October 2011 - IUATLD Conference in Lille, including a workshop/ meeting to build international links between parliamentarians