

# **All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Tuberculosis**

## **Annual Report 2010**

Update of APPG activities between June 2009 and June 2010

## **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.

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## **History and objectives of the APPG**

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) exist to focus Parliamentary attention and activity on a specific issue. The APPG on Global Tuberculosis was established in 2006 by Andrew George MP (Liberal Democrat – St Ives and Isles of Scilly), Nick Herbert MP (Conservative – Arundel and South Downs) and Julie Morgan MP (Labour – Cardiff North). It was set up in response to cross-party concern for the growing scale and impact of the TB epidemic and to reinforce the UK's commitment to halting and reversing the incidence of TB worldwide.

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.

### **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.

## Structure and Membership of the APPG

The APPG consists of Parliamentary Officers and Members. Following the May 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 General Election the APPG held its AGM and inaugural election of officers on 16<sup>th</sup> June, where the group elected new officers. The general election also resulted in a high turnover of members as some MPs stood down, some MPs lost their seats, some MPs and Peers became government ministers.

### Officers:

The three co-chairs of the group from 2006 – May 2010 were: Julie Morgan MP, Andrew George MP, Nick Herbert MP

Other officers in 2009/2010: Doug Naysmith MP (Secretary), Annette Brooke MP (Treasurer)

Following the June 2010 AGM the new officers of the Group are:

Chair - Andrew George MP  
 vice-Chairs - Virendra Sharma MP, Mark Lancaster MP, Annette Brooke MP, Baroness Masham of Ilton

### Members:

Before the 2010 general election the APPG had 42 members. Immediately following the election the membership halved to 21 members as MPs retired, lost their seats or became government ministers. By June 2010, following a post-election recruitment drive, the APPG had 37 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 over 250 individuals working in varied areas of health and international development (see table 1). The size of the support network has grown from 197 in June 2009. The Network is an informal group that is kept informed of the work of the APPG through various communication methods (see page 6). Members of the Network also provide information and guidance to the APPG secretariat and to Parliamentarians directly.

Table 1: Professional affiliation of the APPG "support network"

Affiliate Organisation	Number of people from support network
NHS/Health Protection Agency	129
UN/ International Organisation	12
Governmental Organisation DH/ DFID etc	9
Non-Governmental Organisation	38
Research/Academic Organisations	46
Private Sector	9
Other	25

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 July and October 2009 and in January and March 2010. 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 has 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. Updates were produced in February and April 2010. 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.

**Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank Group** – in July 2009, Andrew George MP wrote to the Robert Zoellick. The letter urged the World Bank to take specific action to improve its performance on reducing TB-HIV co-infection in Africa.

**The Rt Hon Lord Darzi of Denham**, Health Minister – in July 2009 following an APPG meeting on tuberculosis in London, Doug Naysmith MP wrote to Lord Darzi concerning TB Services in London. The letter specifically addressed plans for a London-wide TB commissioning unit and the future of the London-based Mobile X-Ray Unit.

**Mayor of London** - In December 2009 APPG member, Baroness Masham wrote to the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. The letter highlighted the issues about TB in London and the future of the Find and Treat service. This was part of a larger APPG campaign to influence the Mayor's office and the GLA to make TB a priority.

**Anne Milton MP** – in June 2010 APPG Member, Baroness Masham, wrote to the new Public Health Minister, Anne Milton MP, about the future of the Mobile X-Ray Unit in London.

## Activity in the year June 2009 – June 2010

### Meetings in Parliament

Overview of meetings:

Date	Title of meeting
July 2009	TB in London: the strategic response to the epidemic in our capital
July 2009	Launch of APPG Report, 'Turning UK TB policy into action: the view from the frontline'
November 2009	Social determinants of TB, with Mike Foster MP
November 2009	Roundtable breakfast on HIV-TB sustainable supplies of treatment. Co-organised with the APPG on AIDS
December 2009	Launch of results of 2 <sup>nd</sup> PCT survey 'Tackling Tuberculosis in England: the PCT response to the challenge'
December 2009	APPG coordinator organised a workshop on engaging parliamentarians at the IUATLD conference
March 2010	Lucy Chesire and Kibble Ngaluka, World TB Day advocacy meeting

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 co-Chairs or Secretariat 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>



**TB in London: The strategic response to the epidemic in our capital**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**Chair:** Doug Naysmith MP

**Speakers:** Dr Simon Tanner (Regional Director of Public Health for London), Nick Relph (Chair of the London TB Commissioning Board), Surinder Tamne (London TB Workforce Group)

**Number of attendees:** 37 (including 4 parliamentarians)

**Brief outline:**

The meeting heard from 3 speakers followed by a question and answer session. The presentations highlighted the increasing problem of TB in London, the reasons behind this and the areas most affected. The current structure of TB services in the capital was also highlighted, including plans to move towards a pan-London structure for commissioning services. The comparison was also made between New York and London, considering whether London could experience the same kind of TB epidemic as New York.

**Report launch: Turning UK TB policy into action: the view from the frontline**

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**Chair:** Julie Morgan MP

**Speakers:** Susan Dart (Royal College of Nursing), Dr Marc Lipman (British Thoracic Society)

**Number of attendees:** 41 (including 2 parliamentarians)

**Brief outline:**

This event launched the APPG's report into the implementation of UK TB policy 'on the ground'. The report contains a number of recommendations including the introduction of national standards for TB, issuing and reviewing guidelines on workloads for consultants and specialist nurses, and running effective awareness and active case finding programmes.

**Combating Tuberculosis: From social determinants to policy bottlenecks**

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**Chair:** Nick Herbert MP

**Speakers:** Mario Raviglione (Director of the Stop TB Department, WHO), Mike Foster MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, DFID)

**Number of attendees:** unknown

**Brief outline:**

The purpose of this meeting was to look at TB within the context of wider health and social frameworks and to see how TB is associated with other issues. These include HIV/AIDS and health system strengthening, an overview of the factors increasing susceptibility to the disease and the actions needed to address these. The event also looked at the need for greater funding and for new and better tools to tackle TB, as well as the social and financial obstacles preventing individuals from seeking treatment.

**Roundtable breakfast on HIV-TB sustainable supplies of treatment.**

Co-organised with the APPG on AIDS

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**Chair:** Andrew George MP

**Speakers:** Dr Jorge Bermudez, Executive-Secretary of UNITAID

**Number of attendees:** 14 (including 6 parliamentarians)

**Brief outline:** The event, co-organised with the APPG on AIDS, focused on the need for sustainable treatment for both TB and HIV/AIDS. Specifically it looked at research, development and manufacture of new and sustainable medicines to tackle both diseases.

### **The Human Face of Tuberculosis**

**Date:** 23 March 2010

**Speakers:** Lucy Chesire (Kenyan TB advocate), Kibble Ngalauka (Programme Manager of the Sue Ryder Foundation, Malawi)

**Number of attendees:** 15 (including 5 parliamentarians)

**Brief outline:**

Both speakers addressed the meeting about their experiences of TB in Africa. Lucy Chesire specifically discussed the personal and structural difficulties of HIV-TB co-infection and the problems of diagnosing TB in rural settings and MDR TB generally. Kibble Ngalauka discussed the difficulties of diagnosing TB, including stigma surrounding positive TB diagnosis. The presentations were followed by a productive discussion.

## **Activity in the past year: External meetings and conferences**

### **IUATLD conference, Mexico, December 2009**

The APPG Secretariat attended the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease Conference and ran a workshop on 'engaging parliamentarians in the fight against TB'. Presentations were made on the work and structure of the APPG. Discussion and debate followed and it was agreed that going forward the APPG would produce a bi-monthly newsletter to try to encourage contact between organisations which engage with parliamentarians on TB.

### **Exhibition launch event: Airborne: A journey into the challenges and solutions to MDR-TB and XDR-TB, November 2009**

The APPG organised for a photo exhibition to be held in the Upper Waiting Hall of the House of Commons. The exhibition showed WHO commissioned photographs focussed on TB drug resistance.

### **Launch of 2<sup>nd</sup> PCT survey results, 'Tackling Tuberculosis in England: the PCT response to the challenge'**

In December 2009 the 2<sup>nd</sup> PCT Survey Report 'Tackling tuberculosis in England: the PCT response to the challenge' was launched at the British Thoracic Society's Winter Conference. The survey was conducted by the APPG in conjunction with the BTS, Royal College of Nursing and TB Alert.

### **Tuberculosis: The forgotten plague, Royal Society of Medicine, March 2010**

APPG co-Chair, Nick Hebert MP, addressed a meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine on World TB Day titled 'Tuberculosis: The forgotten plague'. He spoke about the need to address tuberculosis and the importance of the APPG in raising the profile of this often neglected disease.

## **Activity in the past year: Reports and Publications**

### **Turning UK TB Policy into action: the view from the frontline**

This report, launched in July 2009, was co-produced by the British Thoracic Society, Royal College of Nursing TB Forum, and the APPG. The report contains surveys of the RCN and BTS members taken between January and April 2009. The surveys attempted to ascertain from frontline staff the degree to which central policy has been implemented and the outstanding barriers that prevent effective TB prevention and control. The results of the surveys show that much progress has been made, but also that there are areas where more effort is needed if effective services for TB are to be developed. A copy of the report is available from the APPG on Global TB's website.

### **Tackling tuberculosis in England: the PCT response to the challenge – Second National Tuberculosis Survey of English Primary Care Trusts**

This survey was the second audit of PCTs (the first report was published in 2007). It sought to determine whether progress has been made by PCTs in ensuring that TB is made a priority and whether national guidelines have been implemented since the 2007 audit was conducted. The audit was jointly conducted by the APPG, the BTS, the RCN and TB Alert. The report exposed some interesting results, for example that about 1/5 PCTs with a high TB burden of TB had no TB strategy. It also demonstrated only limited progress since the 2007 survey. However, it did show positive trends, such as 93% of PCTs have a designated lead for TB – a large increase from 2007. A copy of the report is available from the APPG's website.

## Activity in the past year: Parliamentary Questions

In 2009/ 2010 (up to May 2010) there were 49 questions raised in Parliament on TB issues. 45 were written questions and 4 oral questions. 8 of the questions were tabled in the House of Lords and the remaining 41 in the House of Commons.

A breakdown of TB PQs:

Subject	Number of PQs	Subject	Number of PQs
<b>TB in the UK</b>		<b>TB globally</b>	
Current Progress	1	Progress/ effectiveness	4
Local/National Incidence	3	Global/Regional Incidence	0
Policy and funding	13	Policy and funding	4
Evaluation/targets	7	GFATM	4
HIV/TB	0	HIV/TB	2
Drug resistance	2	Drug resistance	1
Treatment	2	Research & Development	6
Total	28	Total	21
Attributable to APPG	Unknown <sup>*</sup>	Attributable to APPG	Unknown <sup>†</sup>

In addition, ahead of World TB Day 2010, APPG Co-Chair Nick Herbert MP tabled an EDM on tuberculosis. The motion was supported by over 80 MPs.

Parliamentary questions, statements and debates on TB can be found on the APPG website: [http://www.appg-tb.org.uk/tb\\_parliament.html](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**

### **Ann Cryer MP visit to St Luke's Hospital, Bradford, October 2009**

APPG member Ann Cryer MP visited St Lukes Hospital in Bradford. She heard how TB affects the area, including her constituency of Keighley. Hospital staff briefed Ann that TB is increasing in the area and staff are working at capacity to ensure that patients are treated and followed up correctly. St Lukes notified 149 cases in 2008.

### **Andrew George MP meeting with Christoph Benn, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, May 2010**

Andrew George MP met with the Director of External Relations at the Global Fund, Christoph Benn. The discussion took place in light of the new Government's reassessment of funding for multi-lateral agencies and the Global Fund's replenishment conference in October 2010. The meeting was also timely as the APPG will be holding a roundtable discussion on the Global Fund with other global health APPGs in July 2010.

### **Other Briefings**

Numerous personal briefings and meetings on the future work of the APPG and TB more generally were conducted with parliamentarians including Baroness Masham, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Lord Avebury, Lord Howe, Lord Bhatia, Conor Burns (at the time as Conservative PPC for Bournemouth West) and Baroness Northover.

## **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 meeting for 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 2010

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

1. The APPG's 3 co-chairs wrote an article for the in-house Parliamentary publication "*The House magazine*". The article highlighted the low profile of TB, the social and economic determinants of the disease and the need to mobilise political will to tackle tuberculosis.
2. Parliamentary Questions were tabled both in the House of Commons and House of Lords. The questions focused on both TB in the UK and TB globally. There were oral questions tabled in the Lords by Baroness Sharples and Baroness Masham around World TB Day, followed by subsequent debate and discussion.
3. An Early Day Motion was tabled highlighting TB-related issues ahead of World TB Day. The motion received the support of over 80 MPs.
4. A meeting was held on the eve of World TB Day in Parliament with Kenyan TB Advocate, Lucy Chesire, and the Programme Manager for Sue Ryder Foundation in Malawi, Kibble Ngalauka.
5. Nick Herbert MP spoke on World TB Day about the work of the APPG at the '*Tuberculosis: The forgotten plague*' conference at the Royal Society of Medicine.



## Evaluation of activities - Progress against APPG objectives

Key Objectives of the APPG	Activity	Progress?
<p><b>To campaign for TB to be made a political priority for the UK Government, political parties and the international community</b></p>	<p>The APPG worked with the UK Coalition to Stop TB to secure agreement from all 3 main UK party leaders on TB policy. The Group held meetings, debates, asked Parliamentary Questions and put down motions to raise the profile of TB. However, the Group was unable to secure a meeting with Public Health Minister to discuss 'TB Services in the UK Reports' before the dissolution of Parliament for the General Election. Seeking meetings with the new ministerial teams following the 2010 will be a priority. Letter writing to ministers and international bodies should also increase in the year 2010/11.</p>	
<p><b>To co-ordinate informed parliamentary activity on TB</b></p>	<p>A range of meetings and briefings were held to inform parliamentarians on the latest TB developments. These briefings included on-site visits to UK treatment facilities and local TB services for MPs. PQs were asked on both UK and Global TB. However, the group's work would benefit from a more focussed approach on specific challenges and objectives in influencing TB policy.</p>	
<p><b>To provide a forum for debate and discussion on issues relating to the global TB problem among Parliamentarians and other key stakeholders</b></p>	<p>Several meetings were held and oral parliamentary questions took place in the Commons and Lords. Too much activity focussed around World TB Day 2010, and more should be done to secure oral questions and debates throughout the year. More also needs to be done to attract a greater member of parliamentarians to attend meetings/discussions.</p>	
<p><b>To promote effective and sustainable solutions that will have a positive impact on meeting global TB control targets</b></p>	<p>This has been successful in several examples, such as parliamentary questions on Global Fund replenishment and MDR TB, as well as the 2009 Surveys of PCTs, and RCN and STS members. However, greater focus needs to be made in the future on the areas the group wishes to concentrate work on, and the objectives the Group wishes to achieve.</p>	
<p><b>To ensure that political and financial commitment for TB control from the UK</b></p>	<p>APPG pressure has helped to ensure that internationally the UK Government has taken a lead in securing resources to fight TB.</p>	

<b>Government and other sources is proportionate to the global need</b>	However, commitment to the 2010 replenishment of the Global Fund and ensuring TB is a health priority remains a challenge. In the UK, more work is needed to improve TB services.	
<b>To work in partnership with other All-Party Groups on cross-cutting issues</b>	The APPG worked with the APPG AIDS on the World AIDS Day Breakfast. There is also continuing close work with the other development APPGs to organise a planned ‘Parliamentarians Ending Poverty’ event in July 2010, as well as other global health APPGs on the Global Fund roundtable in July 2010. While the Group should coordinate work where appropriate, it is important that the APPG TB maintains its independence as a strong voice for ending tuberculosis. The Group should also work closely with APPGs focussed on UK issues such as homelessness and prisons.	
<b>To build relationships with and support the activities of Parliamentarians in other countries who are working towards similar objectives</b>	A workshop was held at the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Conference in December 2010, and bimonthly updates are now produced the APPG Secretariat for organisations working with Parliamentarians on TB policy. However, greater effort is needed to create better coordination, particularly among parliamentarians, but also between organisations working with MPs around the world. The second half of 2010 should provide the chance to extend and deepen the existing network.	
<b>To be recognised nationally and internationally as an influential and effective partner in the fight against TB</b>	The APPG has continued its active membership of the UK Coalition to Stop TB and support of the work for the WHO Stop TB partnership Secretariat. The APPG is widely recognised as a valuable member of the UK Coalition to Stop TB.	

<b>Key</b>			Objective not achieved
	Objective partially achieved		Objective achieved (but must be sustained)

## Next steps and future direction

1. Re-establish the APPG after the General Election and recruit new members to the Group.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Continue to positively critique UK policy and suggest new policy direction, including the product of a report reviewing UK global TB policy.
5. Build links with parliamentarians working on TB in other countries, and attempt to coordinate messages where and if appropriate.
6. Continue to work closely with other APPGs on cross-cutting issues. This should include APPGs working on UK issues, as well as international development.
7. Regular contact to be arranged between APPG officers and ministers and/or the APPG secretariat and Departmental advisors.
8. The APPG will build relationships with Shadow Ministers for Health and International Development and engage them on the issue of TB.

## Confirmed activities

**7<sup>th</sup> July 2010** – meeting to discuss TB in the UK

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2010** – AGM and inaugural election of officers

**13<sup>th</sup> July 2010** – visit to the Mobile X-Ray Unit

**29<sup>th</sup> July 2010** – Roundtable meeting on the Global Fund (in conjunction with other global health APPGs)

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2010** – Parliamentarians Ending Poverty Event (in conjunction with other international development APPGs)

**Autumn 2010** – MP delegation to East Africa

**October 2010** - IUATLD Conference in Berlin, including a workshop/ meeting to build international links between parliamentarians