# **Policy Committee Meeting Tuesday 24th August 2021 2pm-4pm**

Venue: Online.

**Committee members:**

IIED, Christian Aid Scotland, Oxfam Scotland, Tearfund Scotland, SCIAF, Water Witness International, Carey Tourism, Thrive, Water Aid, HALO Trust, IDEAS, British Red Cross

**Present:**

Geraldine Hill (SCIAF), Kenneth Watt (Red Cross), Dorcas Pratt (Water Witness International), Lewis Ryder-Jones (Alliance), Simon Anderson (IIED), Ben Wilson (WaterAid), Chris Loughran (HALO Trust), Jamie Livingstone (Oxfam), Chris Hegarty (Christian Aid), Hazel MacIver (Tearfund), Michael Alexander (Individual member), Frank Pringle (individual member), Chrissie Hirst (Corra)

**Apologies:**

Emma Gardner (IDEAS), Josephine McLaughlin (IDEAS), Cathy Ratcliff (Thrive)

**Summary of decisions and actions:**

* Decolonising/anti-racism/localisation
	+ Action: Co-chairs to review Committee ToR to ensure procedures are in place to improve diversity.
	+ 2 spaces on committee to be filled – All members ask to suggest appropriate new members.
* ID Review
	+ Sub-group needed to co-produce a shared paper on key points members think should come out of review that can be used in first meeting with new minister/ Brian Dornan whenever that happens.
	+ Action: Co-chairs to consult interim CEO and incoming CEO on issues raised by ID Review
	+ Action: Co-chairs to ask Board members who might support the process of membership consultation and co-produce paper. Lewis will ask which committee members want to be involved and who might lead.
* Global Public Investment
	+ Action: Lewis to propose meeting to discuss how, if at all, this type of thinking can be developed in Scotland and how it can be useful to broader influencing
* Modus operandi for the Alliance’s policy influencing role
	+ Action: Alliance manifesto to be used as the basis for identifying areas for policy influencing and where the Alliance can legitimately sign-up to campaigns.
	+ Action – Co-chairs and Lewis to review modus operandi for taking policy positions ahead of the next meeting and address this in ToR if need be. Red line issues for Alliance members to be identified.
* Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill
	+ a complex piece of work that will require resources and strategy. Oxfam and Christian Aid keen to be involved in sub-group taking this forward.
	+ Action: Lewis to set up initial meeting inviting policy committee members and others from across the Alliance to develop engagement strategy and to identify partnership/collaboration opportunities with other organisations and networks..
* New MSPs
	+ Briefing for new minister and new MSPs important. Ben keen to support.
	+ Action: Lewis to speak with Ben on developing a briefing.
* Restart CPG
	+ Action: Lewis to discuss with prospective MSP members and convenors about potentially ‘rebranding CPG to something more inclusive, and feed back views
* Alliance role in a future Indy Ref debate
	+ Consensus that Alliance should do something similar/build upon what NIDOS did in 2014, when time comes. Shelve for immediate future, but bear in mind, a long run in time necessary to produce good report that lays out option for yes and no.
* Advocacy at UK level going forward
	+ No consensus on relative importance for Alliance to engage in formal avenues. Agreement that Scottish voice difficult to maintain without increased capacity to gather data. Informal channels of influencing through Scottish MPs (& members of HoL) in particular those on the IDC (Chris Law) thought to be more useful.

**Discussion**

1. **Review** [**last meeting notes**](https://www.intdevalliance.scot/download_file/2159/909)**, action points and subgroup meetings update**

Last meeting notes reviewed.

**Decolonisation/anti-racism/localisation:**

Oxfam – doing quite a bit of work about how we they fundraise and spend – shifting ratios of spend between UK and elsewhere.

On anti-racism – diversity champions on every recruitment panel. aiming to shift culture within organisation. Leadership at highest level.

SCCS are currently planning anti-racism training fro staff which will lead to refresh of strategy

SCIAF) – localism remains a strong theme in their work.

HALO – programming is localised anyway, still thinking about this issue seriously. Recruitment – proactive changes afoot including around how they are approaching advertising, qualifications need etc.

Corra – majority of work is in Scotland. But doing lots. Equity fund set up.

Christian Aid - have used the training from the Alliance on decolonising language and also on ethical imagery - Really helpful.

Red Cross - launched an anti-racism strategy which is open to read here: <https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/how-we-are-run/our-policies/equality-and-diversity-policy/our-anti-racism-programme>

for general info - announcement from Diageo last year - <https://www.diageo.com/en/news-and-media/press-releases/diageo-announces-20-million-community-fund-to-support-social-justice-in-america-helping-black-communities-and-businesses-recover-from-covid-19/>

What can the Alliance do?

Restart decolonising language type events – safe place to discuss and learn. Capacity lacking to do this right now. Will come back to this in future.

Chris Loughran – making procedural commitments for board members and committee members to ‘step aside’ to increase diversity is important

Question - Is membership of committee capped? Yes – time to re-address this next time.

**International development Review:**

Ministerial appointment – whether Jenny or not will shape the degree to whether the review is significant.

Meeting with Brian Dornan will be important

Chrissie - When we meet with new minister – important to do so having built consensus around some key points we think they need to take forward.

Jamie - Endorse Chrissie's recommendation... if there's a new Minister we will inevitable have a chance to meet with them... so bringing together a shared paper on the ID Review would seem sensible. There was some good stuff in the Review, like the new fund focused on women and girls.

Hazels – Tearfund view that scottish NGOs are being pushed out of equation. Keen to see Alliance push back on Scottish NGOs behalf.

Bit of a concern in the review from WaterAid is the emphasis on "non-competitive grants". Think a frank discussion with new Minister / DD about transparency would be timely.

Chrissy - Picking up on Ben's point about transparency, I think this would be an important point for the Alliance to include in future discussions on ID policy and delivery. I think that the Alliance has a key role in contributing to accountability of public spend in this area.

Action point – develop shared paper on ID review.

1. **Chair’s recognition** of the effectiveness of the Alliance’s policy work leading up to the election. Lessons for the short-term policy work horizon in advance of new CEO starting.

Simon recognised the good work of the Alliance Deputy CEO and members of the policy committee in run up to the elections. SCIAF’s role in delivering the question time event noted the

1. **What now after election results**

Chris Hegarty – CA Scotland made the decision early on to prioritise Alliance manifesto

Jamie Livingstone – WSD Bill – there will be lots to do to ensure we shape this process. This Bill's emergence came from the Alliance, so the Alliance helping to now shape it - while ensuring the international isn't lost - would seems to make sense. Maybe a series of policy events leading to a blueprint of some kind?

Chris Hegarty - On WSD Bill - just to say that i agree that the big thing in all the manifestos is the Bill. Keen to be part of the work to flesh out what it can & should be, and how to advocate for that

Jamie Livingstone - Lewis and I met with Neil Gray MP.... now MSPs.... so I think he may want to remain involved in the Bill's development. The slight risk is that the Bill becomes all things to all people... so we will need to work hard for it to remain a vehicle for boosting Scotland's contribution to sustainable international development.

Action point – flesh out details of how we approach an WSD Bill.

GPI – should we form a separate group? Some interest

1. **What is the best modus operandi for the Alliance’s policy influencing role?**
* Discussion on signing up to campaigns or the like – is campaigning part of the policy & advocacy role of the Alliance? As a networked organisation across an increasingly diverse memberships, how does the Alliance decide when & where to advocate? Should the Alliance develop and take organisational positions? Recent examples – Crack the Crises, Glasgow Action Plan & open letter on vaccine patents
* *Lewis to put the case for an organisational policy & advocacy voice. Committee to discuss*.

Jamie – Is it useful to develop a policy compendium – does the manifesto provide this?

Perhaps we need some due diligence process on signing on – time is important – need to consult.

Also adding red lines is important – but so is using language that demonstrates diversity

Hazel - not sure Alliance has time and capacity right now for trying to establish member orgs views and expressing a view back? Would need to figure out level of agreement required/vetoes/minority voices.

Action – assess manifesto, and think about using as basis for policy compendium. review modus operandi for taking policy positions ahead of the next meeting and address this in ToR.

Need to revisit People’s vaccine campaign

1. **Policy approach on emerging issues**
2. **New MSP**s

Ben Wilson – happy to help with new minister briefing, new MSP briefing.

Action – Lewis to speak to Ben about this.

1. **On CPG – need to re-start – should be a priority**

Michael Marra & Alasdair Allan might be good to approach as new convenors. Partick Harvie as last session deputy convenor also worth approaching.

New MSP Foysol Choudhury might be interested in CPG.

Question – should we consider new name expanded focus? E.g. Global Sustainable Development or International development and Climate justice?

No concensus, more thought needed. Lewis to discuss with prospective MSP members and convenors

1. **how do we best influence a future Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill?**

Making sure ID is central to its purpose should be our key objective

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Cross party support crucial

Going to be a complex beast – need to build a strategy pronto. Chris H and Jamie keen to join group to lead this work.

Action – sub-group to form and meet soon to discuss next steps and strategy for influencing

1. **What is the Alliance role in a future Indy Ref debate – do we put forward a vision we did as NIDOS in 2014?**

Point raised that we should perhaps not prioritise this right now given no referendum date is likely to come within the next year.

Others pointed out it would take a while to develop a paper.

Perhaps return to this issue later or at next meeting

1. **how, if at all should the Alliance engage with advocacy at UK level going forward? Should it coordinate a response to the current IDC inquiry into cut impacts?** [See details here](https://committees.parliament.uk/work/940/future-of-uk-aid/).

Informal routes – connecting members with MPs or Lords better route than spending time carving out a scottish voice on IDC inquiries etc.

Action – need to develop position on when to engage and when not to engage on UK issues.

1. **Scottish Council for Global Affairs – what is the role for us here?**

Agenda: Scotland needs an Institute of International Affairs. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18887642.agenda-scotland-needs-institute-international-affairs/>

Action: need to work out how to engage with this. Another subgroup?

1. **COP26 and climate – update and info sharing** (10 mins)

Glasgow Climate Dialogues – SG have agreed to host – giving money to SCCS to implement. This will be a series of events, resulting in a high-level communiqué at the COP.

SCCS will be looking for endorsement from the Alliance on refresh on COP asks in coming weeks