The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Africa

Annual Report

(September 2018 - October 2019)
Overview from the Chair

In December 2018, the APPG for Africa along with the APPG for Malawi (Chaired by Patrick Grady MP) and APPG for Diaspora, Development and Migration (Chaired by Jeremy Lefroy MP) launched a 6 month inquiry into visa problems from African visitors to the UK. The inquiry received over 20 written submissions to our terms of reference, and answers to both written and oral parliamentary questions. We also corresponded and met with Ministers and made Freedom of Information requests which helped informed the report. In addition the APPG held a public oral hearing in January, followed roundtable meetings with the then Immigration Minister Rt. Hon. Caroline Nokes MP in February, the Independent Chief inspector for Borders and Immigration in April and the Director for Africa at the FCO, Harriet Mathews in June.

The report was launched at a public meeting in July which received interest and coverage from the media and press. The inquiry report concluded that at a time when the UK needs to be more outward looking than ever, the treatment of African visa applicants by the UK is doing serious damage to UK-Africa relations across a variety of sectors. It identifies the current barriers Africans face when applying for a UK visit visa and the persistent problems within UKVI decision making processes which have allowed the situation to perpetuate. The report includes practical and policy suggestions for improving the system, often at low or little financial cost to the Government.

The next six months will see us following up on these recommendations with Ministers, the Home Office and the Home Affairs Committee. We will also be using this research as a basis to submit to various committee inquiries of relevance to this work. In particular, we welcome to the inquiries of both the International Affairs Committee in the House of Lords and the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Commons into UK-Africa relations more broadly and the UK Government’s “strategic approach to relations with Africa”.

In addition to the Visas inquiry, we also continued our focus on the future of UK-Africa trade and African Continental Freed Trade Area (AfCFTA) and on the Government’s new “Africa Strategy”. This included a breakfast meeting with the AU Trade & Industry Commissioner and the Lord Mayor of the City of London and high-level roundtables with both the then Minister for Africa, Harriet Baldwin MP and the FCO Director Africa. Following our recommendations in our 2017 report, we were pleased to see the UK Government’s commitment to support the AfCFTA in the memorandum with the AU signed in February although we will continue to follow how far this translates into the UK’s policy approach to trade if Brexit goes ahead in October.

The year ahead is likely to either see the UK leave the EU, a second referendum or a general election and as such we will be focusing our resources on championing fairer UK-Africa trade relations post-Brexit and on pushing for a better UK visa service for African visitors. Our thematic focuses for the next parliament year will include mental health provision and innovation in Africa and accountability of UK companies investing in Africa and respect for human rights. The APPG remains interested in UK-Africa partnerships in research, design, tech and security.

APPG for Africa Annual Report 2018-2019
**Publications**

**APPG for Africa, APPG for Malawi & APPG for Diaspora, Development & Migration: Visa Problems for African Visitors to the UK (July 2019).**

Published in partnership with the Royal African Society, African Studies Association UK, AFFORD-UK and the Scotland Malawi Partnership.

Report researched and written by Henrietta Bailey, David Hope-Jones, Paul Asquith, Ambreena Manji and Dr. Nick Westcott.

**APPG for Africa: Submission to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee on the UK’s Strategic Engagement with Africa (August 2019).** Prepared by Henrietta Bailey.

**APPG for Africa: Submission to the House of Lord International Relations Committee inquiry on the UK and Sub-Saharan Africa- Prosperity, Peace and Development Cooperation (September 2019).** Prepared by Henrietta Bailey.

**Press highlights**


The FT Press “Africans twice as likely to be refused UK visa, say MPs” The Financial Times, 17th July 2019. Web 16th September 2019. [https://www.ft.com/content/00e1ad38-a7c3-11e9-984c-fac8325aaa04?accessToken=zwAAAW07CLS4kc8A4a04p8MR6dOYTPrlMlgqBA_MEQCIItqKGFng4Q2y6TSzelwyK28bn8LN7wrZJeHzwteybAiBU5DAlWvkiYhKxAuq7ad8mNYpVCgr0kCW2HhClaz8Q&sharetype=gift?token=ef13b5f5-57e5-4e3f-95af-8d5e917cb7af](https://www.ft.com/content/00e1ad38-a7c3-11e9-984c-fac8325aaa04?accessToken=zwAAAW07CLS4kc8A4a04p8MR6dOYTPrlMlgqBA_MEQCIItqKGFng4Q2y6TSzelwyK28bn8LN7wrZJeHzwteybAiBU5DAlWvkiYhKxAuq7ad8mNYpVCgr0kCW2HhClaz8Q&sharetype=gift?token=ef13b5f5-57e5-4e3f-95af-8d5e917cb7af)
Meetings Held

23/10/2018  Financing the African Continental Free Trade Area: What can the City of London offer?
Chair: Baroness Northover
Key speakers: Lord Mayor Charles Bowman & AU Trade & Industry Commissioner HE Albert Muchanga
Meeting in partnership with the City of London

05/11/2018  Roundtable to discuss Africa’s Rising Private Debt: is it sustainable?
Chair: Lord Chidgey
Key speakers: Mr. David Robinson is a Deputy Director in the IMF’s African Department and Jesse Griffiths of ODI

13/11/2018  High level roundtable to discuss HMG new Africa Strategy with the Africa Minister
Chair: Chi Onwurah MP
Speaker: Harriet Baldwin MP- Minister for Africa at the FCO and DFID

22/01/2019  Inquiry launch and oral hearing: Visa refusals for African visitors to the UK
Chairs: Chi On wurah MP & Lord Popat
Parliamentary Panel: Patrick Grady MP, Jeremy Lefroy MP, Lord Steel
Key speakers: Insa Nolte (ASA-UK), Matt West (DeLaRue), Jon Davis (LIFT), Albert Tucker (Karma Kola) & Iain Haliday (McGill & Co)
Meeting in partnership with the Royal African Society, the APPG for Malawi and the APPG for Diaspora, Development and Migration

13/02/2019  Roundtable with Immigration Minister to discuss visit visas for Africans
Chair: Chi Onwurah MP
Speakers: Rt. Hon. Caroline Nokes MP, Minister for Immigration & the Head of visa operations at UKVI
Meeting in partnership with the APPG for Malawi and the APPG for Diaspora, Development and Migration

19/03/2019  Bilateral meeting with Harriet Mathews, Director Africa and Chi Onwurah MP

29/04/2019  Roundtable with David Bolt, Independent Chief Inspector for Borders and Immigration
Chair: Jeremy Lefroy MP & Patrick Grady MP
Meeting in partnership with the APPG for Malawi and the APPG for Diaspora, Development and Migration

04/06/2019  Roundtable with FCO Africa Director to discuss the Africa Strategy
Chair: Lord Chidgey
Speaker: Harriet Mathews, Director Africa
02/07/2019 Accountability of the Extractives Sector in Africa: Lessons from the Niger Delta
Chair: Chi Onwurah MP
Key speakers: Alexander Sewell- Stakeholder Democracy Network, Dr Kathryn Dahou- The Bayelsa Commission and Martyn Day- Leigh Day
Meeting held in partnership with the Royal African Society, Leigh Day and Stakeholder Democracy Network

03/07/2019 Tackling the Rise of Childhood Stunting in Africa
Chair: Pauline Latham OBE MP
Key speakers: Prof Claire Heffernan, Director of London International Development Centre
Meeting held in partnership with the Royal African Society and the London International Development Centre, Prof Paul Haggarty, Deputy Principal Investigator, UKRI GCRF Action against Stunting Hub & Rose Ndolo, World Vision
16/07/2019  Report launch: Visa problems for African Visitors to the UK
Chair: Chi Onwurah MP
Key speakers: Robtel Pailey (SOAS), John Vine ( Former ICIBI), Rt. Hon. Caroline Nokes (Immigration Minister), Patrick Grady MP (on behalf of the inquiry)
Meeting in partnership with the Royal African Society, the APPG for Malawi and the APPG for Diaspora, Development and Migration
Income & Expenditure Statement

This statement of the APPG for Africa covers the period from 31st September 2018 to the 15th October 2019.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Income (£ GBP)</th>
<th>Balance (£ GBP)</th>
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<td>31.09.18</td>
<td>Opening balance brought forward from last reporting deadline. (Contribution from the University of Birmingham on 13th April 2017 for public event on UK-Africa relations over the last decade.)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.10.19</td>
<td>Closing balance</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Benefit in kind</th>
<th>Value (£ GBP)</th>
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<td>29.09.2017-30.09.2018</td>
<td>The Royal African Society</td>
<td>Staff and administration costs for the APPG for Africa</td>
<td>24,001-25,500</td>
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<td>23.10.18</td>
<td>City of London</td>
<td>Paid for high-level dinner which some parliamentary members of the APPG attended.</td>
<td>1501-3000</td>
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<td>15.07.19</td>
<td>The Royal African Society, ASA-UK, AFFORD-UK and the Scotland Malawi Partnership</td>
<td>Jointly covered the costs of designing and printing the visas policy report</td>
<td>1501-3000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Chair of the Africa APPG

APPG for Africa Annual Report 2018-2019
Contact Details

The secretariat of the APPG for Africa is provided by the Royal African Society.

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