



Activity Report

April 2010 to March 2011

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This report outlines the activities of the APPG on the Great Lakes region of Africa during the period April 2010 - March 2011, to span the 2010-11 financial year. The period captured corresponds with the APPG's financial reporting period.

Following the UK General Election in May 2010, APPG Members – both new and old – have remained actively engaged in the Group's work. At the time of writing (March 2011), the Group contains 194 parliamentarians, 109 of whom are MPs and 85 of whom are Peers. More than thirty new parliamentarians have joined the APPG since the General Election, a process which is ongoing. The APPG re-elected seven new Executive Officers at our May 2011 Annual General Meeting. Eric Joyce MP (Lab) continues to Chair the Group. At the opening of the new session, APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP issued letters of invitation to all new parliamentarians, inviting them to become members. A list of the Group's new and active Executive Officers can be viewed in Annex 1. A full list of the APPG's members can be viewed on our [website](#).

For reasons of space we have omitted from this report complete coverage of many of our routine but important parliamentary activities that provide parliamentarians with an accurate and timely picture of the region, such as weekly news bulletins (an example can be viewed in Annex 2), day-to-day, individual briefings for members (via email, telephone or in person) and regular communication exchanges with individuals on the ground in the region.

The APPG remains closely involved in the Congo Now campaign and currently sits on the coalition's Steering Group (a voluntary Group that replaced the paid Congo Now Coordinator). The APPG is highly engaged in the coordination and running of the campaign and has so far in 2011 facilitated meetings with Minister for Africa Henry Bellingham, and Minister for Woman and Equalities, Lynne Featherstone. Congo Now activities however are

not included in this report, but can be viewed on the Congo Now website www.congonow.org

The content of this year's report is split into four main sections: (1) activity within the formal structures of parliament (debates, questions, etc.), (2) an outline of formal correspondence, (3) brief listing of meetings and events, and (4) operational issues. The final budget for financial year April 20010- March 2011 is also listed (Annex 3).

The continued efforts of the Group to keep Great Lakes issues at the fore of parliamentary debate and consideration have contributed to our Members' considerable understanding of Great Lakes events and issues. Parliamentary interest in the region remains high - and has increased since the pre-election period, as expected. We have maintained a constant dialogue, both formally and informally, with current Ministers – and also with out-going Ministers from the previous government, who have become Members of our Group. The APPG will continue to brief Members, apply parliamentary pressure through events, visits to the region, debates and media work, building on the firm foundations that we have created in both Houses since May's general election.

Selected highlights in this report include:

- Series of **Ministerial meetings with Minister for Africa, Henry Bellingham**, on the situation in Uganda ahead of the country's February 2011 General Elections;
- Concentrated **parliamentary lobby** of government focusing on Members' concerns over **media repression in Rwanda** ahead of the country's August 2010 Presidential elections, resulting in changes to DFID policy in Rwanda;
- Extensive work calling for improved **contract transparency** and **due diligence standards** in the oil and mining sectors across the Great Lakes region, including a meeting with the PYWP coalition hosting philanthropist **George Soros**, a series of EDMs on the subject and Ministerial meetings with Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs, Ed Davey MP and Minister for Africa, Henry Bellingham;
- An EDM and several high-profile public and private events on the **Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)**;
- An expert **round-table** in June 2010, marking 50 years of independence in the DRC, examining why there has been such little development in the DRC since 1960;
- **Visit to the region** by APPG Chair, Eric Joyce MP.

1. Parliamentary activity

Presidential elections in all four Great Lakes countries across 2010 and 2011 have signalled a critical moment both for the countries individually and for the region as a whole. As such, briefing on and monitoring of elections - and events and circumstances surrounding these - has constituted a key part of the APPG's parliamentary work this year. Elections in the DR Congo in November 2011 are set to play a central role in the APPG's 2011/12 workplan.

Ahead of Presidential elections in Rwanda in August 2010, APPG Members maintained particular pressure on the UK government over media freedoms in Rwanda, arguing that DFID's funding of Rwanda's Media High Council should be re-evaluated in light of events in the country (including attacks on, threats to and detainments of journalists and censorship of media outlets), particularly in the run-up to elections. APPG Members Mary Creagh MP and Ann McKechin MP both raised concerns in the House during DFID and FCO Oral Questions in July 2010 – and received assurances from the government that DFID would not fund Rwanda's Media High Council in the 2010-11 year. These questions and their Ministerial responses can be viewed on the APPG website [here](#) (go to 'Rwanda MP' tab, see columns B, C, D, E & F).

In December 2010, APPG Members in the Lords contributed to a debate on Human Rights raised by APPG Member Lord Alton that highlighted questions about the UK government's strategy in the Great Lakes region. The APPG Secretariat briefed Members before this debate and the Bishop of Wakefield and Lord Alton made specific mention of human rights abuses occurring with impunity in the DRC. The Earl of Sandwich spoke on human rights concerns in Rwanda and Uganda. The full debate can be viewed [here](#).

Later in the session, Eric Joyce MP and Pauline Latham MP jointly balloted for a thirty minute [Westminster Hall Debate on the death of human rights activist, David Kato](#). The debate was well attended, by Shadow Minister for Africa Stephen Twigg MP, Pamela Nash MP and Mark Durkan MP – a very high attendance for a thirty minute allocation. The responding Minister was Minister for Africa Henry Bellingham MP. APPG Members pushed the Minister for assurances that the UK would implement EU guidelines for human rights defenders in Kampala and across Embassies in a more coordinated manner, and sought assurances that the UK government would not allow a series of repressive legislation to be passed in Uganda in the lame duck period, following Ugandan elections in February.

Following elections in Burundi in May 2010, APPG Members have continued to monitor events in the country as they unfold after opposition parties boycotted the Presidential poll. In addition to a series of parliamentary questions on human rights concerns in Burundi, the APPG has organised several meetings to examine UK and international community engagement in Burundi – details below.

June 2010 marked the 50th anniversary of independence for the DR Congo. The APPG continues to focus on the ongoing conflict in eastern DRC as one of the main areas of our work – see [contributions made by APPG Members to a House of Lords debate](#) on the Strategic Defence Review that raised important questions over the role played by UN Peacekeeping forces in the DRC - as well briefing Members on the political, social, environmental and economic developments in the country as a whole – and on how these affect the wider region. On 30 June, APPG Treasurer, the Right Reverend Bishop of Winchester, chaired a parliamentary roundtable focusing on the DR Congo's progress made and challenges faced since gaining independence in 1960. The roundtable brought together an array of experts and Whitehall representatives and introduced some of the key issues at play in the DRC to new APPG Members.

One of the parliamentary outcomes of the 30 June roundtable was a Lords debate, moved by Lord David Chidgey, who sits on the APPG Executive committee, on *Post Conflict Stabilisation*. The debate focused on Members' concerns about the long-term stability and development of countries in the Great Lakes region and was very well attended by APPG Members, who were briefed by the Secretariat before this debate. Lord Chidgey went on to write an article to The Guardian about the fall out of elections in Kenya and Burundi leading to violence and suppression of opposition politicians, which can be viewed in the media section below.

The APPG continues to work – with a variety of partners - towards improving both contract transparency and due diligence standards (especially in relation to natural resource extraction) in the Great Lakes. Following the passage of the Dodd-Frank Financial Reform and Consumer Protection Act into law in the United States in July 2010 and in addition to the trade-for-aid agenda of the new government, parliamentary interest in these issues has peaked once again. The APPG has facilitated an ongoing series of roundtable meetings and briefings with Members focusing on natural resource management and transparent and accountable extraction in the Great Lakes region, with a particular focus on due diligence measures (reference the OECD Guidelines in particular, and Section 1502 of Dodd-Frank), militarised mining in eastern DRC and contract transparency in relation to oil and mining assets in Uganda, Rwanda and DRC.

APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP has tabled two EDMs relating to these issues; 1058 on [DISCLOSURE OF PAYMENTS TO GOVERNMENTS BY OIL, GAS AND MINING COMPANIES](#) and EDM 1444 on [EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE PRINCIPLES](#).

On 17 March 2011 Eric Joyce MP and Lord David Chidgey met with Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs Ed Davey MP to discuss the introduction of these legislative transparency requirements at EU and UK level and were pleased to hear that the issue has some cross-departmental support within government. Eric Joyce MP and Lord David Chidgey both urged the Minister to make representations to his colleagues in the Treasury to make an official statement in support of the measures. Eric and David wrote to Chancellor George Osborne to urge him to include a statement of support in the upcoming budget statement.

2. Correspondences with HMG and others

APPG Members filed a large number of letters during the 2010-2011, which are contained in Annex 5 of this report. These letters are significant in that they

<p>Letters 1: Chris Mullin MP to Minister of State for DFID Gareth Thomas and response [March 2010]</p>	<p>Chris Mullin MP (member) highlights; in particular the lack of transparency surrounding the British firm Tullow Oil's activities there.</p> <p>Gareth Thomas' (DFID) reply highlights that while the UK does not adhere to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, it continues to meet with the Ugandan government about the Tullow case.</p>
<p>Letters 2: Eric Joyce MP to Under Secretary of State for Africa Henry Bellingham MP and response [June 2010]</p>	<p>Minister Bellingham reaffirms the UK government's commitment to upholding MONUSCO to better protect civilians and combat illegal trafficking in minerals.</p>
<p>Letters 3: Eric Joyce MP to Under Secretary of State for Africa Henry Bellingham MP to and response [June 2010]</p>	<p>Minister Joyce highlights the group's concern over the DRC government's refusal to allow an international investigation into the suspicious death of Congolese human rights NGO director Floribert Chebeya. The letter urges the UK government raise the matter with the Government of the DRC.</p> <p>Minister Bellingham answered that he raised the concern over Chebeya's death with the DRC's Foreign Minister directly; and that an FCO team met with Congolese NGOs to hear their assessment of the EU human rights strategy, citing as well the UK's support to a media fund to promote independent media in the DRC.</p>
<p>Letter 4: Response from Earl Atlee TD to Lord Chidgey's Oral Parliamentary Question [October 2010]</p>	<p>Earl Atlee responded to Lord Chidgey's question on the UK's approach to agricultural research. The Earl cited the UK's involvement in the G8-level Aquila Food Security Initiative as evidence of its commitment to food security.</p>
<p>Letter 5a: Letter to Secretary of State Vince Cable MP from Rev Michael Scott-Joynt [October 2010]</p>	<p>APPG Treasurer Rev Michael Scott-Joynt asks Secretary for Business, Innovation and Skills Vince Cable MP what initiatives, if any, are being considered for the UK in light of the Dodd-Frank extractive industries transparency legislation in the USA.</p>
<p>Letters 6: Letter to Secretary of State Vince Cable MP from Eric Joyce MP, response to Lord Chidgey [October 2010]</p>	<p>APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP asks Secretary for Business, Innovation and Skills Vince Cable MP what initiatives, if any, are being considered for the UK in light of the Dodd-Frank extractive industries transparency legislation in the USA.</p> <p>Secretary Cable responded to Lord Chidgey that a meeting to discuss the initiative with OSI director George Soros fell through, but outlined several existing transparency initiatives</p>
<p>Letter 7a: Letter to Ndeye Yande Kane (MONUSCO) from Eric Joyce MP [December 2010]</p>	<p>APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP asks Mr Kane (MONUSCO), who is in charge of the Floribert Chebeya suspicious death case, for an update. No response as yet.</p>
<p>Letter 8: Response from Under Secretary of State for Africa Henry Bellingham MP to Eric Joyce MP [December 2010]</p>	<p>Under Secretary of State for Africa Henry Bellingham MP responded to Eric Joyce MP on UK policy towards combating the Lord's Resistance Army. He highlighted UK assistance to the peace talks and its recent £250,000 contribution to UN peacekeeping initiatives in the region.</p>
<p>Letters 9: Letter for Secretary of State William Hague MP from Eric Joyce MP and response [January 2010]</p>	<p>APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP wrote Secretary of State William Hague MP to know what representations the FCO had made to the Government of Burundi concerning the suspicious death of the Burundian editor Jean-Claude Kavumbagu.</p> <p>Henry Bellingham MP's response pledged that the UK's High Commissioner to Rwanda would raise the issue during his upcoming visit to Burundi.</p>
<p>Letters 10: Letter to Secretary</p>	<p>Russell Brown MP requested an APPG Meeting with Secretary of State William Hague</p>

of State William Hague MP from Russell Brown MP and response[January 2011]	MP to discuss the UK's stance towards the recent UN Mapping report on violence in the DRC. Under Secretary of State for Africa Henry Bellingham MP agreed to meet.
Letters 11: Letter to Secretary of State DFID Stephen O'Brien MP from Eric Joyce MP, response from Andrew Mitchell MP [March 2011]	APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP wrote to DFID Secretary of State Stephen O'Brien to outline the Department's reasoning to deciding to cease bilateral aid to Burundi in favour of contribution to multilateral aid initiatives. Andrew Mitchell MP responded outlining DFID's regional approach, citing that UK contribution to Burundi was relatively small and DFID felt it to be a more effective use of its funds to contribute to Burundi via multilateral approaches.
Letter 12a: Letter to High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union Baroness Cathy Ashton from Tom Clarke MP, John Mann MP, and Eric Joyce MP [March 2011]	These three Labour MPs wrote to Baroness Ashton to enquire what representations she has made at the EU level concerning financial support to Burundi, in light of the UK's decision to cease bilateral aid to Burundi.
Letter 13a: Letter to Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne MP from Eric Joyce MP [March 2011]	APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP asks Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne MP what initiatives, if any, are being considered for the UK in light of the Dodd-Frank extractive industries transparency legislation in the USA.
Letter 14a: Letter to Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne MP from Lord David Chidgey [March 2011]	APPG Vice-Chair Lord David Chidgey asks Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne MP what initiatives, if any, are being considered for the UK in light of the Dodd-Frank extractive industries transparency legislation in the USA.
Letter 15a: Letter to Edward Davey MP, Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs from Eric Joyce MP [March 2011]	APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP asks Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs Edward Davey MP what initiatives, if any, are being considered for the UK in light of the Dodd-Frank extractive industries transparency legislation in the USA.
Letter 16a: Letter to Edward Davey MP, Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs from Lord Chidgey [March 2011]	APPG Vice-Chair Lord David Chidgey writes to Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs Edward Davey MP to urge HMG to consider pro-transparency initiatives, commenting on transparency in relation to Chinese firms and US legislation.
Letter 17: Letter to Under Secretary of State Henry Bellingham MP from Lord David Chidgey [25032011]	APPG Vice-Chair Lord David Chidgey writes to Under Secretary of State Henry Bellingham MP over restrictions on media freedoms in Rwanda.

Media Representations

On 6 November 2010, APPG Members Lord Alton, Baroness Chalker, Lord Chidgey & Baroness Kinnock co-authored a letter to *The Telegraph*, coordinated by Crisis Action, calling upon the UK to use its upcoming presidency of the United Nations Security Council to push for the apprehension of the Lord's Resistance Army in the Great Lakes region. The letter can be viewed at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/letters/8113527/Glad-confident-morning-freed-from-the-radio-tyranny-of-the-Today-programme.html> The letter also notes the mismatch between economic and democratic

development in the region. Furthermore the article expresses concern over the British government drawing down its presence across the Great Lakes region at a time when diplomatic contacts are vital and connected to the success of UK foreign policy.

On 27 September 2010, APPG member Baroness Kinnock wrote a public letter to *The Guardian* on the difficulty the UN faces in trying to achieve its mandate in the Congo, in light of the mass rape of women in Walikale Territory in August 2010. The full text of the letter can be viewed at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/aug/27/protect-women-in-congo>.

3. Meetings, events and visits to the region

This summary is by no means exhaustive and highlights only some of the key meetings and events that the Group has been involved in over the past year. Other events can be viewed on our website www.appggreatlakes.org and you can receive regular updates by joining our online newsletter (link on the APPG website) or by following us on Twitter @APPGGreatLakes

The APPG kicked off the new parliamentary session in May 2010 with a briefing for Members with UN Group of Experts on the DRC consultant, Gregory Mthembu-Salter, who briefed MPs and Peers on his work in the east of DRC studying the control of **mining assets** by rebel groups and, in some cases, the Congolese army. The briefing was attended by APPG Members Norman Lamb MP, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Nicola Blackwood MP and Lord David Chidgey.

In conjunction with NGOs, academic and expert partners, the APPG has facilitated a series of parliamentary briefings throughout the year on **transparency** and **corruption**, looking mainly at DRC and Uganda. For example, in September Global Witness met with APPG Chair, Eric Joyce MP to brief him on the Dodd-Frank Act and implications for the UK (then again later in the session with Lord David Chidgey).

On 18 May 2010 the APPG Secretariat met with Isabelle Roy, Director for West and Central Africa for the Canadian Dept of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Topics discussed included Canada's interaction with [the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region \(ICGLR\)](#), a regional mechanism that aims to transform the Great Lakes Region into a space of sustainable peace and security for States and peoples. In particular, Ms. Roy spoke to Canada's support for the ICGLR's recent initiatives to improve management of natural resources across the region.

In July, a number of APPG Members attended an APPG hosted meeting with George Soros, facilitated by OSF. Mr Soros spoke on the significance of the recently passed **Dodd-Frank Act** in the US and the need for similar legislation in the United Kingdom. The APPG Secretariat is working closely with the Publish What You Pay coalition to brief APPG Members on the need for improved transparency *and* due diligence mechanisms in relation to mineral and oil extraction in the region, and continues to work closely with the joint working group on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the EITI and other industry and NGO bodies in order to keep Members up-to-date and working towards introduction of UK or EU legislation on both counts.

During a brief visit to the region in September, Eric Joyce MP met with various stakeholders engaged in artisanal mining in the country's east to discuss (among other issues explored elsewhere in this report) the anticipated effect of the US legislation (in particular, Section 1502) on local stakeholders in eastern DRC and also to gather local views on President Kabila's mining ban. The majority of stakeholders welcomed the Dodd-Frank amendments – although saw difficulties in implementing some of the due diligence requirements on the ground within the timeframe that they understood that the act demanded. The mining ban was not well-received; most stakeholders felt that it would have a negative impact on civilian livelihoods but do little to curb the illicit trading that it was designed to curtail. Eric Joyce MP raised a number of these points during meetings on this subject with Ministers (notably Stephen O'Brien and Henry Bellingham) and sent a note to all Members detailing thoughts from the visit, encouraging them to call for timely implementation of legislation on due diligence in the UK that would focus on conflict minerals in eastern DRC.

The Chair's visit also focused particularly on issues surrounding **disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR)** of ex-combatants and the challenges faced by returning refugees. The visit certainly spurred APPG Members to become more heavily involved in due diligence, transparency and tax issues and also encouraged them to gain a better insight into the situation of refugees returning from DRC to Rwanda. Action points will continue to be followed through in 2011.

Many of the points made during on DDRRR during the visit were also underlined in early July 2010, when APPG Members met with Mr Kare Lode of Norwegian Church Aid, during a visit facilitated by Christian Aid, to discuss non-military solutions for peace-building in the Kivus. This visit is part of an ongoing dialogue with APPG Members, tracking in-depth the challenges faced by civilians living in the region that are often not covered during regular policy meetings. Through regular briefings on these topics, APPG Members have subsequently raised some of the more complex repatriation issues with UN Special Representative Meece and UK Ambassador to the DRC, Neil Wigan, during their visits to the UK over the past year.

The APPG has continued to monitor progress in **Burundi**; in early June members met with Burundian Ambassador to Brussels, H.E. Laurent Kavakure and in September APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP attended a briefing with Human Rights Researcher in Burundi, Neela Ghoshal. We have continued to place regular parliamentary questions on Burundi (see Annex 4) and raise issues of concern with the UK's High Commissioner at meetings in Westminster and during meetings of APPG Members and the High Commissioner that take place in the region.

The APPG had organised an IPU-funded delegation to monitor Burundian elections and the APPG Coordinator attended a EURAC-led election monitoring weekend seminar on same in Brussels during April 2010. Regrettably, due to a combination of APPG Membership changes following the UK General Elections in May and a change in FCO travel advice to Burundi, the visit was cancelled at short notice.

Most recently, the APPG has hosted the Most Rev. Bernard Ntahoturi, Anglican Archbishop of Burundi, during his visit to the UK, hosted by Christian Aid. The Archbishop met with several APPG Members, including Pauline Latham OBE MP, John Mann MP, The Rt. Rev Bishop of Winchester Michael Scott-Joynt, Jeremy Leffroy MP, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Tom Clarke MP and APPG Chair, Eric Joyce MP. The Archbishop's primary concern related to UK Aid in Burundi, which he understood was likely to be cut in the upcoming DFID bilateral aid review. The Archbishop laid out a case as to why the UK should continue funding Burundi. Several of the Members who the Archbishop met have laid down written parliamentary questions on several subjects, and have also written to the Minister subsequent to the review, expressing concerns about the UK's decision to cut aid to Burundi. APPG Chair, Eric Joyce MP has written to Stephen O'Brien to request a detailed outline of why the decision was made, and several Labour members of the Group have written to EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Baroness Ashton to ask what role the EU will play in supporting Burundi, now that the UK has cut its aid.

As part of our work focusing on **women and girls across the Great Lakes region**, on 24 April 2010 the APPG, along with Amnesty International and Doctors of the World UK (Medecins du Monde), hosted a Parliamentary event entitled **"Still no news on Congo?"** organized by the Congo Now coalition. The event aimed to raise awareness about the current situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly in relation to women and girls and featured a talk by Pulitzer Prize winner and playwright Lynn Nottage. Other guests included Judith Wanga, whose journey to Congo is the subject of a BBC documentary.

Following on from this, the APPG organised a briefing in collaboration with War Child for Members with an interest in Ugandan women and girls, particularly following the instability and human rights abuses experienced by Ugandan girls in the aftermath of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda. *Empowering Girls in Conflict Zones* brought APPG Members into contact with a

young and successful Ugandan girl who had escaped from a life of child soldiering following her abduction by the LRA.

In October 2010, following the summer recess, the APPG successfully balloted for space in the Upper Waiting Hall to show "Congo/Women; Portraits of War; Democratic Republic of Congo", in collaboration with ART WORKS Projects and the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media, Columbia College, United States. Further details and pictorial representations of the presentation can be seen on the APPG's website.

The APPG co-hosted a further event on women and girls in the DRC with the APPG on Human Rights, chaired by Ann Clwyd MP. The groups hosted Eve Ensler, author of the *Vagina Monologues* and founder of the 'City of Joy' in Bukavu, DRC – a part-UN funded centre for women and girl survivors of SGBV in the DRC. Eve called upon the UK government to act immediately to end gender-based violence in the DR Congo, in particular raising the issues of impunity and democratic accountability as areas where the UK should be taking much greater action. The APPG has begun to explore options for a 'democratic exchange' which we hope will span the full current parliamentary session in the UK, in order to further share best practise between UK and DRC parliamentarians and build local and national government accountability in the DRC. This work is in addition to that begun by the UK through the Friendship Group structure (which is continuous) and would focus specifically on women parliamentarians. Further details can be found in the APPG's 2011/12 workplan.

Our work on the human rights and civilian protection agenda has not been limited to women and girls; the APPG has also organised a series of meetings examining both the treatment of human rights defenders across the great lakes region, and the continued occurrence of gross human rights abuses in Great Lakes countries. These have ranged from a continued focus on the LRA's activities across the region, to individual events centring on the UN Mapping Report on the DRC (including a meeting with the Congolese community chaired by APPG Members Russell Brown MP and Pauline Latham MP) and the deaths of Congolese human rights defender Floribert Chebeya and Ugandan human rights defender David Kato (for details of parliamentary activity on both of these cases, see the section above). For example, the APPG hosted with APPG Member Mary Creagh MP, a 'comedy event' with Jane Bussman that took an unusual look at LRA activities and its effects in Uganda and the wider region. *Bussman's Holiday: The Worst Date Ever*, focused on ongoing atrocities committed by the Lord's Resistance Army and on continued human rights abuses committed by UPDF forces in the country's north.

Rwanda's Presidential elections in August caused Members cause for concern, particularly with regard to political space, respect for human rights, and freedom of expression in Rwanda. In October 2010, the APPG worked closely with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to coordinate an inward delegation to Westminster of Rwandan MPs and Peers. In a meeting entitled *A Briefing on Rwanda: Parliamentary Strengthening in the Post-Election Environment* chaired by APPG Member Baroness Kinnock, the APPG assisted with briefing of CPA Parliamentary Members ahead of the delegation's arrival, ensuring that the above mentioned concerns were clearly addressed.

During the visit itself, the APPG organised three meetings for the Rwandan delegation; a well-attended private meeting between UK and Rwandan parliamentarians chaired by APPG member Laurence Robertson MP, a meeting between APPG Chair Eric Joyce MP and head of the Rwandan delegation Senator Wellas Gasamagare, and a visit for the delegation to the Supreme Court of Justice, facilitated by APPG Member Rt Hon Lord Justice Jonathan Mance. Issues raised included, but were not limited to: treatment of opposition parties before, during and after August's elections; repatriation issues including discussion of the Cessation Clause; concerns over media freedoms; accessible education, science and information technology as part of Rwanda's development; land issues; conflict minerals and Rwanda's role and responsibilities concerning the continuing conflict in eastern DRC.

The APPG Secretariat have worked with NGOs and academics throughout the year to arrange group and individual briefings for APPG Members in order to keep APPG Members abreast of developments in the country, ahead of DFID's bilateral aid review in Spring 2011. For example, in July 2010, the APPG organised a meeting with one of Tearfund's Inspired Individuals, Philbert Kalisa a Rwandan community leader whose work seeks to build peace and reconcile Rwandan communities.

In October 2010 the Secretariat arranged a briefing by Odette Kayirere and Chantal Kayitesi of AVEGA on the situation for survivors in Rwanda today, chaired by APPG Member Stephen Crabb MP.

Later in the same month, APPG Members Stephen Crabb MP and Nicola Blackwood MP met with Rwandan Senate President, H.E. Victor Biruta, to discuss the post-electoral climate in Rwanda and the country's plans for economic and social development over the next parliamentary term.

Elections in **Uganda** combined with recent oil discoveries in the country have led to increased attention from APPG Members. In conjunction with a continued series of topical and written parliamentary questions, Early Day Motions (EDMs) and contributions to debates, (which can be viewed in Annex 4), the APPG has held numerous meetings focusing on media freedoms, civil liberties and human rights in Uganda, such as *Uganda: Management of Elections*, facilitated by OSI and chaired by APPG Member Pauline Latham MP, and a further meeting with APPG Members facilitated by *Human Rights Watch* with HRW Uganda researcher. These meetings combined with parliamentary lobbying resulted in a series of Ministerial meetings with Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Henry Bellingham MP to discuss the elections – and the UK’s response to them – in greater detail.

In the aftermath of elections in Uganda the APPG Secretariat has kept in close contact with organisations and individuals engaged in election monitoring from the Commonwealth and European Union missions and has continued to brief MPs and Peers on developments in the country.

4. Operational issues

For the financial year 2010/11, the APPG has had a gross income of £41,838.37, of which £5,386.62 was carried over from the past financial year and £3,500 was paid in arrears (core contributions) from financial year 2009/10.

£27,100 was spent on salaries for the APPG Coordinator and part-time Associate Coordinator. Other expenses, including a visit to the region and attendance of the Party Conferences, were included in the overall sum. Further details can be viewed in the budget breakdown, attached.

Although a £5000 increase in our core funding during 2009/10 has allowed us to redress the shortfall in our staffing budget for this financial year, there remains a clear gap between the capacity and expertise needed to enable the APPG to fulfil its potential, and the staffing and operational budgets we have available. We have been able to cover this in the past, but only by making some significant demands on the goodwill of staff, several of whom work on a semi-voluntary basis. In the long term, this is not sustainable – particularly in light of indicated cuts from some of our funders for the next financial year, following changes to their own internal financing. It is also felt that it is important to build a small operational reserve from the APPG to cover times where cash flow is problematic, which has this year resulted in salaries going unpaid or paid late on several occasions.