



British Council and Soft Power All-Party Parliamentary Group Annual report 2025/26

Introduction

This document provides details of the activities, management and future plans of the British Council and Soft Power All-Party Parliamentary Group. This includes details of events held during the period 2025/26; the governance and leadership of the APPG; details of future events; and details of how its activities have been managed during the aforementioned period.

APPG officers

The officers of the APPG during the period 2025/26 have been as follows:

- Chair: Fabian Hamilton (Lab)
- Vice-Chairs: Monica Harding (Lib Dem)
Chris Webb (Lab)
Lord Randall of Uxbridge (Con)

Secretariat / management services

The APPG secretariat has been provided by policy and external relations team at the **British Council**.

APPG activities: 2024/25

During this period, the APPG has undertaken the following events and activities:

- **Inaugural meeting** – January 2025
- **Global Perceptions Launch**: On November 19 2025, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the British Council and Soft Power Fabian Hamilton MP helped to launch the report – with support from APPG members.

APPG – possible future activities

The secretariat is working to develop the Group's 2026/2027 events programme. Here are some possible future activities:

- **Annual Soft Power & Culture Inquiry** - a focused parliamentary inquiry with evidence sessions and policy influence
- **Global Youth & Alumni Forum** - bringing international students, alumni, and youth leaders into Parliament



- **Country & Region Spotlights** - regular briefings on priority regions linking culture, education, and UK strategic interests
- **Parliamentary Showcases** - curated exhibitions or performances highlighting British Council impact and UK creative industries
- **Flagship Annual Report** - an evidence-led publication on the UK's global cultural and education footprint with clear recommendations

Description of the Group

The British Council and Soft Power All-Party Parliamentary Group is a cross-party forum of UK parliamentarians focused on the role of culture, education, and international people-to-people connections in advancing the UK's soft power and global influence.

The Group supports parliamentary understanding of the British Council's work worldwide, examines how cultural relations contribute to the UK's foreign policy and international standing, and brings together MPs, peers, experts, and partners to inform debate, scrutiny, and policy development in this area.