



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Single-Parent Families

Minutes: Drop-in event on domestic abuse and the Child Maintenance Service

Wednesday 22 April 2026 | Room C, 1 Parliament Street

Apologies:

Dame Chi Onwurah MP; Baroness Lister; Desmond Swayne MP; Baroness Sherlock OBE (Minister of State in the Department for Work and Pensions); Elaine Stewart MP; Joy Morrissey MP; Kerry McCarthy MP; Leigh Ingham MP; Sir Roger Gale MP; Rushanara Ali MP; Sir Stephen Timms MP (Minister for Social Security and Disability)

In attendance:

Dr Rupa Huq MP– Chair; Baroness Hazarika; Chris McDonald MP; Danny Beales MP; Lorraine Beavers MP; Ian Roome MP; Andrew Cooper MP; Steve Yemm MP; Liz Twist MP; Dr Jeevun Sandher MP; Janet Daby MP

External speakers:

Abigail Wood (Gingerbread); Shital (Lived Experience Expert)

Meeting notes:

1. Welcome and speeches

- The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance and gave an outline of the focus and format of the session.
- Abigail Wood gave an overview of the findings and recommendations from the joint briefing by Gingerbread, Surviving Economic Abuse and Women's Aid: *"Maintenance is used as a weapon all of the time": Domestic abuse and the Child Maintenance Service*.
- Shital gave an overview of her lived experience with the Child Maintenance Service and the support provided for victim-survivors of domestic abuse.

2. Drop-in event

- Parliamentarians in attendance were invited to speak with victim-survivors of domestic abuse who have used the Child Maintenance Service about their experiences, alongside staff from Gingerbread, Surviving Economic Abuse, and Women's Aid about the recommendations of their joint briefing.