



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE APPG FOR INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SETS THE PROGRAMME FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AT ITS FIRST PUBLIC MEETING

**“There are significant barriers for people with protected characteristics who wish to move into enterprise - they face challenges in areas such as sector-specific support in business, access to finance and markets, health and well-being. I would like to see more being made available to this sector and to engage, stimulate, encourage & nurture #InclusiveEntrepreneurship.” That’s the message from Dr Lisa Camperon, MP, Chair of the new All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Inclusive Entrepreneurship during its first public meeting.**

The APPG for Inclusive Entrepreneurship was set up in July 2020 to ensure that Parliament is fully informed on what is needed to create and sustain the most beneficial conditions for inclusive economic growth.

As a recent report on Inclusive Entrepreneurship stated, there is a global lack of understanding of the specific challenges faced by persons with disabilities, particularly disabled entrepreneurs, and these have been especially magnified during the Corona virus pandemic. While there are many government policies and programs that support entrepreneurship, there are limited studies that evaluate the impact of these policies on entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities. Some of the challenges cited in literature included gender gap, cost of doing business and the likelihood to be funded to launch a business, as common dominant factors reported on the issue of inclusion.

***Report on Inclusive Entrepreneurship: A Critical look at Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, July 2020\****

With this in mind, the APPG for Inclusive Entrepreneurship was established to remove barriers and change the narrative. This should increase the numbers and raise the profile of Inclusive Entrepreneurs with protected characteristics particularly disabled entrepreneurs. The APPG will

seek Parliamentary support and/or scrutiny of the Secretary of State for The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and other appropriate Ministers and Shadow Ministers in any consultations on inclusive entrepreneur related issues. It will also keep under review policies, as well as funding and development programmes - both in the UK and abroad - and the effect these have on inclusive entrepreneurs. Furthermore, it will support an Inclusive Entrepreneurship Mentoring Programme involving business leaders and start-up entrepreneurs with protected characteristics.

The APPG for Inclusive Entrepreneurship is fast gaining support across parliament and organisations internationally and in the UK. Joining Dr Lisa Cameron MP as Vice Chairs are the RT Hon Baroness Grey Thompson DBE DL, The RT Hon Baroness Uddin; The RT Hon Earl of Errol, Craig Tracey MP and Officer, Yasmin Qureshi MP. Universal Inclusion provides Secretariat services, supported by Pink Shoe.

It held its first public meeting on Tuesday 15th September 2020 with parliamentarians, inclusive entrepreneurs and representatives from various organisations in attendance. This first virtual meeting signalled the start of an ambitious two-year Programme of Works, which is expected to not only change the narrative around disability and work, but to support the Government's National Disability Strategy.

During the meeting, members of the APPG were presented with an overview of the concept governing inclusive entrepreneurship and how inclusive entrepreneurs can contribute to a country's economic growth. This was followed by a showcase of the innovation and resilience within this emerging sector and a panel discussion with industry experts on 'Opening Up Media & Creative Spaces'.

The Secretariat, led by Jacqueline Winstanley FRSA, CEO and Founder of Universal Inclusion launched a national enquiry on the contribution of the inclusive entrepreneurs to the economy. This inquiry will collect evidence from inclusive entrepreneurs and look at their contribution to the country's economy and GDP, to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Disability Strategy, legislation and guidelines for Good Practice. It will also investigate the impacts on health, well-being and quality of life. Recommendations will then be put forward on how to scale up this emerging sector.



The meeting concluded with a commissioned piece by Inclusive Entrepreneur James Holt for Manchester Histories and Drake Music. During the pandemic, James was asked to compose a piece of music for #McrHistDigiFest2020.

The APPG for Inclusive Entrepreneurship welcomes new members and supporters who can invest and contribute expertise to meetings and various initiatives. It also welcomes sponsorship of key elements of the Programme of Works, the National Enquiry, The work of the Secretariat, and digital tools and platforms. More information, including meeting schedules and membership registration, is available at <https://www.universalinclusion.co.uk/appgie>.

The APPG for Inclusive Entrepreneurship will always be as inclusive as possible. Meetings have BSL interpreters in attendance.

#InclusiveEntrepreneursOnline

-ENDS-

### Notes to Editors

Public Enquiry Point: [APPGIE@universalinclusion.co.uk](mailto:APPGIE@universalinclusion.co.uk)

- The Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Inclusive Entrepreneurship is Universal Inclusion, led by Jacqueline Winstanley FRSA, CEO and Founder of Universal Inclusion, The Inclusive Entrepreneur: <https://www.universalinclusion.co.uk>
- It is supported by Pink Shoe – <http://pinkshoeclub.com/>
- The Report on Inclusive Entrepreneurship: A Critical look at Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, by **JoAnn Rolle**, Dean, Business School, Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, USA; **Jacqueline Kisato**, Kenyatta University, Kenya and **Patricia Rock**, BlueSuite Solutions, Inc., USA and **Jacqueline Winstanley, FRSA**, Universal Inclusion, UK was published in July 2020. For a copy of the abstract and the report please contact [universal.inclusion@icloud.com](mailto:universal.inclusion@icloud.com).
- The Two-Year Programme of Works can be found here: [APPG for Inclusive Entrepreneurship Programme of Works.pdf](#)
- The schedule of meetings can be found here: <https://www.universalinclusion.co.uk/appgie>



**Pix A:** The National Enquiry 'ROAD TO WONDER' was launched during the first public meeting of the APPG for Inclusive Entrepreneurship chaired by Dr Lisa Cameron MP. The enquiry will be led by Jacqueline Winstanley FRSA, CEO of Universal Inclusion and The Secretariat.



Tuesday 15 September 2020

Secretariat Supported by



Chair: Dr Lisa Cameron MP



**Pix B:** APPG Inclusive Entrepreneurship Programme of Works



## 2 YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORKS

- To produce National evidence based report.
- Co-ordinate written and oral parliamentary questions and debates.
- Organise events with Parliamentarians and key members of the entrepreneurial community.
- Organise events with school and university students and emerging entrepreneurs.
- Arrange meetings between group members, Government Ministers and officials.
- Initiate and participate in Parliamentary debates.
- Create an Inclusive Entrepreneurship Accelerator Programme.
- Upscale Inclusive Entrepreneur Network.
- Organise a recognition programme culminating in an Annual Event at the House of Commons.
- Link with the Stock Exchange.





Pix C: APPG Inclusive Entrepreneurship National Enquiry, Road to Wonder.



## LAUNCH OF ENQUIRY - 'ROAD TO WONDER'

### Conduct a National Comprehensive Enquiry

Commencing September 2020 and Reporting due in June 2021

- The What, Who, When , Where and Why?
- Contribution to the Economy and GDP.
- Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Disability Strategy, legislation and guidelines for Good Practice.
- Impact on Health and Wellbeing.
- Impact beyond Turnover.
- Recommendations on how to scale-up this emerging sector.

