



#PugwashOrg #Arab-British #UKParliament

On the invitation of the Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell
please join us for an
International Pugwash/Council for Arab-British Understanding
Parliamentary briefing on the Syrian crisis.

29 August 2013

Committee Room 16

12.00 - 1.30 pm

With events moving at a rapid pace, the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and CAABU will convene a briefing meeting in the hours before Thursday's debates on Syria. This briefing meeting will build on a recent half-day International Pugwash meeting on the Syria crisis held in London on 27 June 2013. All MPs, Lords and their staff are invited to attend.

The June meeting involved 22 participants, including Syrians, regional experts, chemical weapons experts and current and former policy makers. The meeting explored a current overview of the conflict, claims of chemical weapons use, policy options and questions raised by the sending of arms to the various sides in the conflict, and ways in which to increase prospects for a negotiated settlement. The report from this meeting is available on the [Pugwash website](http://www.pugwash.org) (www.pugwash.org).

The briefing on Thursday will involve some of the speakers from the June meeting plus other invited experts. There will be only short introductions in order to allow substantial time for discussion. The key questions the briefing meeting will cover are:

- What do we know about Syria's chemical weapons? This would include what might the UN inspectors be able to report.
- What objectives could any international pressure have? This would include a question of whether military intervention is the best way to deal with chemical weapons.
- What might be the strategic political/military consequences of intervention?
- What might be the humanitarian consequences of intervention; and how can the humanitarian crisis in Syria best be resolved?

Panelists include:

- Daniel Levy, European Council on Foreign Relations
- Richard Guthrie, International Pugwash CBW working group
- Shaheen Chughtai, Oxfam
- Patricia Lewis, Chatham House
- CAABU speaker
- Others to be confirmed

Chaired by Martin Butcher on behalf of Pugwash International

The briefing meeting will be held in Committee Room 16 from 12.00 – 1.30 pm. We encourage all those interested to attend, even if they can only drop in for a few moments.