



Human Security Centre

Advisory Board Member

Meg Munn MP



Meg Munn MP has been the Member of Parliament for Sheffield Heeley in the UK Parliament since 2001, when she stood as a Labour Co-operative candidate.

Prior to entering Parliament, she studied for a BA (Hons) in languages at the University of York and an MA in Social Work at the University of Nottingham. She later gained a Certificate and Diploma in Management Studies from the Open University and was the first MP to be awarded Chartered Manager status by the Chartered Management Institute.

Later, she worked as a Social Work Assistant for Berkshire County Council and as a Social Worker for Nottinghamshire County Council, becoming a Senior Social Worker from 1990 to 1992. She then worked as a District Manager for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Child Services Manager for Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council and Assistant Director of City of York Council Children's Services. She also served as a Councillor on Nottingham City Council from 1987 to 1991, a member of the Barnsley Regional Board of the Co-operative Group (the UK's largest co-operative society) and a member of the Management Committee of Wortley Hall. She was elected President of the 2006 Co-operative Congress and is also a member of USDAW and the Co-operative Party.

Following her election to Parliament in 2001, Munn served on the Education and Skills Select Committee (2001-2003) and the Procedure Select Committee (2001-2002). Later, she served as Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Department for Education and Skills (2003-2005) and Minister for Women and Equality (2005-2007). She introduced civil partnerships into the UK in 2005, was responsible for the Equality Act 2006, was involved in the Work and Families Act 2006 and established the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). In 2007, she was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with responsibility for the Overseas Territories, South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the Caribbean and Central America.

After standing down from government in 2008, Munn served as Chair (2008-2010) and Vice-Chair (2010-2012) of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. She focused on the Middle East and North Africa, leading workshops and mentoring MPs in Egypt, Iraq Kurdistan, Morocco and Jordan. She is particularly involved with the Iraqi National Parliament and has worked with organisations such as Iraq Foundation, International Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to support democracy-building with Egyptian, Libyan, Tunisian, Algerian, Moroccan and Jordanian MPs.

In Parliament, she is Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Chair of the Child Protection APPG which she established, Chair of the Methodist APPG, and Vice-Chair of the Women in Enterprise APPG, the Engineering and Information Technology APPG, the Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire APPG, and the Mexican APPG. She has also served as Chair of the Women's Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party, Chair of the Parliamentary Co-operative Group, Vice-Chair of Labour Friends of Israel, Vice-Chair of Progress and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Voice group.

Her recent publications include *Building the future: women in construction* (Smith Institute, 2014) and *Unlocking Potential: perspectives on women in science, engineering & technology* (Smith Institute, 2011), both of which she edited.