CHAIR’S WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE BIMR CWP NEWSLETTER

Welcome! To what I hope will be the first in a series of newsletters for the BIMR CWP (British Islands and Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians).

Our region is diverse and stretches from St Helena to Scotland. Our geography sometimes presents us with challenges but we are united in our determination to improve the representation of women in parliament and to shine a spotlight on the issues which affect far too many women in society today. Issues like violence against women, trafficking and the exploitation of women and girls, the barbaric practise of FGM and ways in which we can encourage young women to aim as high as they can in whatever career they choose.

I hope that this first newsletter will provoke further discussion and debate and I hope that you enjoy reading it.

Best wishes,

Patricia Ferguson

Patricia Ferguson MSP, Chair, BIMR CWP
Steering Committee
FORTHCOMING CWP CONFERENCE:
GIBRALTAR 2015

BIMR CWP will hold a Conference in Gibraltar from 6-8th February 2015. CPA Gibraltar are working hard on a fantastic programme looking at Violence against Women and the Parliamentarian’s role in tackling this. Expect a variety of academics and politicians to discuss strategies for prevention and justice. Samantha Sacramento and CPA Gibraltar will be ensuring that delegates enjoy Gibraltar’s cultural highlights and fantastic hospitality.

Please contact Emily Pignon on pignoneg@parliament.uk for more information.

Save the date; Conference on Violence against Women, 6-8 Feb 2015

Friday 6 February
1530-1730 [Steering Committee Meeting]
1845 Reception
1930 Dinner

Saturday 7 February
0900-0945 Opening Plenary
0945-1115 Plenary: Violence against Women - The Economics
1130-1300 Plenary: Violence against Women - Protection
1300-1400 Lunch
1400-1530 Plenary: Violence against Women - Prevention
1545-1715 Plenary: International Organisations and Co-operation
1930 Reception and Dinner

Sunday 8 February
0800-0930 Working breakfast meeting with local young women; What it means to be a woman parliamentarian
1000-1230 Plenary: The Abuse of Women and Girls on Social Media
1230-1330 Lunch

Report of the CWP Conference in Edinburgh 2014

The inaugural BIMR CWP Conference was held in Edinburgh in March 2014. Over thirty delegates attended and issues as diverse as women in the media and government budgets were discussed. We were fortunate to be able to have Government Ministers, Party Leaders and prominent academics lead our discussions and we are grateful to everyone who helped make the conference such a success. Special thanks must go to our guest Linidwe Maseko the then Speaker of the Gauteng Province in South Africa for her insightful contribution about the role of women in South African politics.

Delegates at the CWP Meeting in Edinburgh 2014
COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS
CASE STUDY; SAMANTHA SACRAMENTO MP

POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY

Year first elected to Parliament: 2011

Career summary:


May 2004 – Dec 2011 Attias & Levy - Barrister;


Dec 2014—Present Her Majesty’s Government of Gibraltar Minister for Equality, Social Services, Housing & Tourism

CPA conferences, seminars etc attended in last three years:

CPA Regional Conference (BIMR): Falkland Islands 2013; Cardiff 2014; CWP BIMR: Edinburgh 2014

CPC: South Africa 2013 & Cameroon 2014

Interests: Politics; current affairs; photography; travel

I am delighted to be hosting this conference for my colleagues from all over the British Islands and Mediterranean region here in Gibraltar. Female MPs understand the particular challenges facing women Parliamentarians and by looking for solutions together we can make a difference for the future. This conference will be outward looking; and providing an opportunity to engage in debate and find solutions.

CWP PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

BIMR CWP Regional Conference, Edinburgh, June 2014

Steering Committee Meeting, London, June 2014

CWP Meeting at Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Cameroon, 3rd October 2014

Steering Committee Meeting, London, 11th December 2014,

BIMR CWP Regional Conference, Gibraltar, 6-8 February 2015

CWP Meeting at Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Pakistan, TBC 2015
Contact your local branch to get involved

CPA International is divided into 9 regions. We are the British Islands and Mediterranean Region. Our member branches are:

- Alderney
- Cyprus
- Gibraltar
- Guernsey
- Falkland Islands
- Isle of Man
- Jersey
- Malta
- Northern Ireland
- St Helena
- Scotland
- Wales
- UK

Contact BIMR CWP

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Patricia Ferguson MSP
BIMR CWP Chair
Member of Scottish Parliament

Hon Samantha Sacramento MP
Gibraltar Minister for Equality, Social Services, Housing & Tourism

Deputy Sandra James MBE
Member of the States of Deliberation, Guernsey

Dr Justyne Caruana MP
Member of Parliament, Malta

The Hon Clare Christian MLC
President of Tynwald, Isle of Man

Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Member of N.I Legislative Assembly

Cllr Christine Scipio-O’Dean
Member of Legislative Council, St Helena

Joyce Watson AM
Member of Welsh Assembly

Roberta Blackman-Woods MP
Member of Parliament, UK

The CWP was founded by women delegates at the 1989 plenary conference so women at future conferences could discuss ways to increase female representation in Parliament and work towards the mainstreaming of gender considerations in all CPA activities and programmes.