Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: CHOGM 2018

This special edition of the CPA Update e-newsletter reports on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) activities at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 in London, UK and the associated Commonwealth Forums.

Commonwealth Parliamentarians participated in four associated Commonwealth Forums ahead of the CHOGM 2018 along with over 5,000 people from parliament, government, business and civil society under the theme of ‘Towards a Common Future’. CHOGM also addressed the four sub-themes of: a more sustainable future; a fairer future; a more secure future; and a more prosperous future. Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) including the CPA Chairperson, Hon. Emilia Lifaka, MP (Cameroon) and CPA Officers as well as the CPA Secretary-General participated in the Summit, the Forums and other events which took place.

CPA Secretary-General, Akbar Khan said: “CHOGM 2018 will deliver better global outcomes for the Commonwealth’s 2.4 billion citizens, 60% of whom are under the age of 30 by all parts of the Commonwealth family working more closely together towards a common future.

Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association representing over 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures and 17,000 Parliamentarians across the Commonwealth have been at the heart of the discussions taking place at key Forums and side events. The CPA brought its unique perspective to CHOGM 2018 through focusing on the key role that Parliamentarians can and do play in every aspect of a nation’s life to bring transformational change to Commonwealth citizens’ lives.”

Images of these events can be accessed at our Flickr page click here.

If you have any CPA news or events to feature in future e-newsletters please email communications@cpahq.org.
Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth and Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association opens CHOGM 2018

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) at Buckingham Palace to mark the formal start of two days of meetings with 53 Commonwealth leaders both in London and at Windsor Castle.

Commonwealth leaders, Ministers and senior officials from the 53 Commonwealth nations also met at Lancaster House in London to discuss how member states will work even closer together on sustainability, fairness, security and prosperity. Member states also discussed ways of collaborating to tackle the threat of climate change. Please click here to read the CHOGM 2018 Communique.

Commonwealth leaders reaffirmed their continuing gratitude for the duty and commitment that Queen Elizabeth II has shown to all members of the Commonwealth over the decades and her role in championing the Commonwealth and its peoples. Commonwealth leaders also confirmed that the next Head of the Commonwealth will be HRH The Prince of Wales. Please click here to read the CHOGM 2018 Leaders Statement.

Many members of the royal family took part in Commonwealth events during CHOGM week and it was announced that the Queen had appointed Prince Harry to be the new Commonwealth Youth Ambassador in his role as President of The Queen's Commonwealth Trust, a new youth charity which will provide a platform for young change-makers across the Commonwealth in areas such as education, sport, health and the environment. Please click here to read the full CHOGM news story.

CPA CHOGM News

CPA Chairperson and Officers at CHOGM 2018 and associated Commonwealth Forums in London, UK

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Chairperson, Hon. Emilia Lifaka, MP (Cameroon) together with the CPA Treasurer, Hon. Vicki Dunne, MLA (Australian Capital Territory); the Chairperson of the CPA Small Branches, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta; the CPA Vice-President, Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and the CPA Secretary-General, Akbar Khan attended a number of pre-CHOGM and Commonwealth Summit events in London, UK to promote the work of the CPA and to further its aims of parliamentary democracy across the Commonwealth.

The CPA Chairperson and CPA Treasurer reflect on CHOGM 2018 - please click here to view the video.

Please click here to read the full CPA news story.
CPA UPDATE: CHOGM SPECIAL April 2018

CPA Secretary-General presents to the CHOGM Foreign Ministers meeting on behalf of the CPA and the Commonwealth Associated Organisations

At the 2018 CHOGM, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan presented to the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers meetings held at Lancaster House and chaired by the UK Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon. Boris Johnson, MP and the UK Commonwealth Minister, Rt Hon. Lord Ahmad. The CPA Secretary-General presented on behalf of the Commonwealth Associated Organisations (AOs)* to the Foreign Ministers meeting together with, Lucy Slack, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF).

The CPA Secretary-General also met with many Commonwealth Parliamentarians including: the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Premier of St Kitts and Nevis, Hon. Mark Brantley; the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Australia, Hon. Julie Bishop; and the Speaker of the Parliament of Belize, Hon. Laura Tucker-Longsworth.

*Commonwealth Associated Organisations: Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management; Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators; Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrators; Conference of Commonwealth Meteorologists; Commonwealth Games Federation; Commonwealth Education Trust; Commonwealth Local Government Forum; Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation.

Gender equality and overcoming barriers to political participation emphasised at 2018 Commonwealth Women's Forum

The 2018 Commonwealth Women's Forum has emphasised women's positive political, economic and societal contributions ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) in the United Kingdom. The three-day Commonwealth Women’s Forum (CWF) saw many Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) speaking at the forum on a wide range of issues and a CPA/CWP joint session on ‘Women’s Political Participation at All Levels’ in partnership with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and the CPA UK Branch.

Women from parliaments and local government reflect on the 2018 Commonwealth Women’s Forum - please click here to view the video.

The Commonwealth Women's Forum saw international delegates from the Commonwealth and globally highlighting women's positive political, economic and societal contributions and establishing mechanisms for how women and girls will be key to building sustainable and resilient societies. Key highlights included: the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, HE Sheikh Hasina and UK Secretary of State for International Development, Rt Hon. Penny Mordaunt, MP speaking about education empowering girls; UK Home Secretary, Rt Hon. Amber Rudd and Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland speaking about the SDGs; CPA Vice-President, Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda on violence against women in elections.

Please click here to read the full CPA news story.
Importance of separation of powers to ensure effective governance highlighted at 2018 Commonwealth People’s Forum

The Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Small Branches, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta spoke about the importance of the separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary to ensure effective governance and democracy at a workshop session at 2018 Commonwealth People’s Forum. The CPA Small Branches Chairperson also highlighted the CPA’s role in the establishment of the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles on the separation of powers and the CPA’s Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures.

The CPA Small Branches Chairperson speaks about the 2018 Commonwealth People’s Forum - please click here to view the video.

Please click here to read the full CPA news story.

Youth delegates highlight the importance of their contribution for the future of the Commonwealth at the 2018 Commonwealth Youth Forum

The 2018 Commonwealth Youth Forum, held ahead of CHOGM 2018, brought together over 500 youth delegates to engage in planning, capacity-building and a General Assembly where they finalised their priorities on youth-led action in development and elected their new Commonwealth Youth Council.

Several Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) youth programme participants joined young people from across the Commonwealth under the theme of ‘Powering our Common Future’ to discuss youth unemployment; violent extremism; cyber security; climate change and climate resilience; inclusion and equity; health; democracy and governance.

The 2018 Commonwealth Youth Forum was opened by HRH Prince Harry who had also been appointed the new global Commonwealth Youth Ambassador.

Youth delegate Kieran O’Neill (Scotland) said: “We’ve had the opportunity to meet and listen to some really inspirational people from the United Nations to, former Prime Ministers and people who have changed the world. This is something I am going to remember for a very long time. In terms of the future and what we can take from this, we need to work closer together and we need a stronger, more united Commonwealth.”

Please click here to read the full CPA news story.
CPA Chairperson and Secretary-General attend launch event for 'Change the Script' women’s empowerment campaign during CHOGM week

The Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Hon. Emilia Lifaka, MP (Cameroon) attended the launch event for a new women’s empowerment campaign 'Change the Script' held in the run-up to CHOGM 2018. The campaign, led by UK Parliamentarian, Baroness Uddin and the National Commission on Muslim Women, focusses on gender equality and empowerment. The launch event heard from the CPA Chairperson, the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan and the event host, HE Euripides Evriviades, the Cyprus High Commissioner to the UK.

UK Parliament reception for Commonwealth delegates held ahead of CHOGM 2018

The UK Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon. Boris Johnson, MP addressed Parliamentarians and delegates from across the Commonwealth as he welcomed them to the 2018 Commonwealth Summit at a reception held in the UK House of Lords.

The Foreign Secretary highlighted the importance of engaging across the Commonwealth at this and future CHOGMs and the success of the first Commonwealth Parliamentarians Forum held in the UK in February. The event was hosted by the CPA UK Branch and the UK Parliament.

UK Foreign Secretary commits £4m to democracy in the Commonwealth ahead of CHOGM 2018

The UK Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon. Boris Johnson, MP announced £4 million to strengthen democracy and broaden political participation across 18 Commonwealth countries ahead of the CHOGM 2018.

The new funding will support work with democratic institutions such as national parliaments and local authorities to help improve transparency and foster more stable, democratic societies. The programme will focus on how institutions are accountable and inclusive of all their citizens, and on driving efforts to widen participation by women, minorities and other underrepresented groups.

The two-year programme will cover Commonwealth developing countries across Africa, South Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific and will be managed by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office through a consortium led by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, partnering with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the CPA UK Branch and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

For more information on this new programme please click here.
Pre-CHOGM dinner hosted for the CPA at Royal Overseas League

The Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Hon. Emilia Lifaka, MP (Cameroon) attended a pre-CHOGM dinner hosted by Dr Diana Owen, Director-General of the Royal Overseas League (ROSL) in London, UK. The event was also attended by the CPA Treasurer, Hon. Vicki Dunne (Australian Capital Territory); the CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta; Hon. Laura Tucker-Longworth, Speaker of Parliament of Belize; the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan; and Sir David Brewer, Chairman of the Royal Overseas League.

Images of these events can be accessed at our Flickr page [click here](#). Additional images from Commonwealth Secretariat and CHOGM 2018 teams.

If you have any CPA news or events to feature in future e-newsletters please email communications@cpahq.org.

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