

## CWP Workshop: Champions for Gender Equality

### Gender Equality Statement

*A statement written by Commonwealth women and male parliamentarians on 7 December 2022 at the 'CWP Workshop: Champions for Gender Equality', held in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia.*



The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) workshop 'Champions for Gender Equality: Achieving Equal Participation in Commonwealth Parliaments' note that whilst there are numerous examples of women changemakers across the Commonwealth achieving extraordinary progress, the responsibility to gender sensitise and create inclusive parliaments cannot and should not be seen as a burden placed on women parliamentarians alone.

Workshop delegates maintain that the active participation of women is the only way to ensure the equal and meaningful participation of women in parliaments across the Commonwealth. It is agreed that Champions of all genders can better address discriminatory practices, unequal access to

resources and other issues which prevent the equal participation of women in parliament. Many participants acknowledge that in parliaments that have low representation of women, support from influential stakeholders is useful.

Nonetheless, workshop delegates highlighted with concern that there are priority actions that Commonwealth parliaments should take to achieve equal participation in parliament. **Participants recommended the following actions:**

- 1) Commonwealth Parliaments are encouraged to create gender caucuses in their parliament to advance gender equality and the gender sensitisation of parliament.
- 2) Commonwealth Parliaments should have gender equal representation achieved through measures including a quota.
- 3) Commonwealth Parliaments should create family friendly environments that support all Members of Parliament and staff in balancing work and caring responsibilities.
- 4) The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network encourages all women parliamentarians to engage in CPA Parliamentary Academy Courses as part of capacity building.