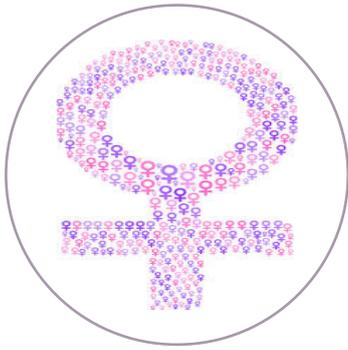


COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Strategic Plan 2020 - 2022





**Over 3,000 women
parliamentarians**



**In over 180
Commonwealth
Parliaments**



**Across 9 Regions of the
Commonwealth
Parliamentary
Association**

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP)

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) is the network of women Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Parliaments and Legislatures. The CWP network provides a means of building the capacity of women elected to Parliament to be more effective in their roles, improving the awareness and ability of all Parliamentarians, male and female, and encouraging them to include a gender perspective in all aspects of their role - legislation, oversight and representation and helping Parliaments to become gender-sensitive institutions.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CWP
HERE:**

Twitter: @CWP_Int

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Parliamentarians

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About the CPA

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) connects, develops, promotes and supports parliamentarians and their staff to identify benchmarks of good governance and the implementation of the enduring values of the Commonwealth. The CPA collaborates with parliaments and other organisations, including the intergovernmental community, to achieve its statement of purpose. It brings parliamentarians and parliamentary staff together to exchange ideas among themselves and with experts in various fields, to identify benchmarks of good practices and new policy options they can adopt or adapt in the governance of their societies.

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FOREWORD BY THE CWP CHAIRPERSON

As Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), I am delighted to present the CWP three-year Strategic Plan for the years 2020 to 2022.

Following its establishment in 1989, the CWP has played a central role in advancing issues around gender equality, has advocated for better representation of women in parliament, and provided capacity-building tailored to women Parliamentarians' roles as legislators, scrutineers and representatives. Now over 30 years later, CWP continues to focus on promoting gender equality by striving to achieve the goals set out in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG5) throughout the Commonwealth.

Despite the successes achieved by the network throughout the years, the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID - 19) reveals that there is still more work to be done to achieve gender equality. Evidence from research conducted by the United Nations on the impact of COVID – 19 on women, has shown that policies that fail to consult or include women in decision-making are less effective and at times harmful.¹ Now more than ever, parliaments across the Commonwealth must ensure that women are heard and equally represented in all areas of decision-making in order to successfully fulfil their democratic responsibilities.

This Strategic Plan was developed following a series of consultations with members of the CWP International Steering Committee, as well as other women parliamentarians and parliaments from across the Commonwealth. It addresses areas of concern and priorities expressed by legislatures during these consultations, as reflected in the network's updated Thematic Priorities. With the intention of carrying forward the work achieved in the execution of the network's Strategic Plan of 2017-2019 by my predecessor, Hon. Dr Dato Noraini Ahmad MP, Malaysia, this Strategic Plan further refines the network's focus by streamlining its outputs and priorities.

I encourage all women parliamentarians across the CWP membership to adhere to four key principles in carrying forward this Strategic Plan: **maximise the role of women parliamentarians; build the capacity of women parliamentarians; advocate for mentoring and knowledge sharing amongst women parliamentarians and; proactively encourage women parliamentarians to take a central role in gender mainstreaming at all levels of decision making.**

We recognise that in our journey towards implementing this Strategic Plan, we have the continued support of both national and subnational parliaments who, united by our commitment to the values contained in the Commonwealth Charter, sustain the work of network.

Women parliamentarians, Branches and Regions of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, as a collective, must all actively take ownership of this Strategy as its success will be determined by our joint commitment to its application.

As a well-established internationally recognised network for women parliamentarians, we acknowledge that there is strength in numbers when advocating for gender equality and, therefore CWP will continue to actively seek opportunities for potential partnerships with international organisations both within and beyond the Commonwealth.

I sincerely look forward to working with every member of the CWP to successfully realise this strategy. I am certain that as a sisterhood, we will effectively work towards achieving the network's goals to increase the representation of females and to ensure that women's issues are brought to the forefront in parliamentary debate and legislation across parliaments in the Commonwealth.



Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP), Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan MNA

¹ United Nations Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID - 19 on Women - <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/report/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en-1.pdf>

MISSION STATEMENT

CWP WILL PROMOTE THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN CPA BRANCHES AND WOMEN'S FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS.

OUTCOMES

CWP will...

- ◇ **Support** women parliamentarians in maximising their efficacy as legislators, scrutineers, educators, representatives and advocates for the betterment of their societies;
- ◇ **Build** the capacity of women parliamentarians to enable them to be effective political leaders;
- ◇ **Lead** a community of women parliamentarians as a support mechanism and network for mentoring and knowledge sharing;
- ◇ **Proactively take** a central role in the governance and performance of CPA and linked bodies and ensure a holistic approach to gender mainstreaming across CPA.



THEMATIC PRIORITIES

A. WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

- i. Combat bullying and abuse of women parliamentarians & staff including physical, verbal and online;
- ii. Support the empowerment of women with disabilities and mental health issues;
- iii. Introduce and promote policies designed to combat bullying, abuse, and harassment of women parliamentarians and staff, including anti-harassment policies and codes of conduct;
- iv. Promote and enhance the role of women in peacebuilding and reconciliation;
- v. Monitor compliance with international commitments that advance the rights of women and girls.



B. ELIMINATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) IN ALL ITS FORMS & HARMFUL PRACTICES

- i. Reduce violence against women and girls with the ultimate goal of elimination;
- ii. Prohibit female genital mutilation (FGM) and promote education on the issue;
- iii. Prevent child, underaged, and forced marriage and relationships;
- iv. Eliminate the trafficking of women.



C. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

- i. Enhance access and increase usage of enabling technology and digital tools;
- ii. Reduce and ultimately eliminate the gender pay gap, promote inclusive financial policy, and access to finance for women;
- iii. Encourage Gender-sensitive Budgets and outcome analysis.



D. EQUAL ACCESS TO NATIONAL RESOURCES

- i. Advance policies and funding that gives access to education at all levels for women and girls;
- ii. Promote access to and availability of sexual and reproductive services;
- iii. Advance the right of all to health and nutrition;
- iv. Recognise that climate change exacerbates gender inequality.



OUTPUTS

CWP will...

- ◇ **Deliver** a comprehensive and holistic learning and development framework for women parliamentarians to enhance their skills and knowledge.
- ◇ **Provide** a platform and opportunity for women parliamentarians to network and share good practice across the Commonwealth and internationally and to be a safe space for support and guidance for women parliamentarians.
- ◇ **Actively advocate** for women and girls across the Commonwealth and internationally through communication, outreach and awareness-raising and will seek to increase the visibility of women parliamentarians internationally.
- ◇ **Partner** with global organisations with shared values and purposes to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes and will maintain partnership with former CWP Members and leaders who could serve as mentors to newly elected parliamentarians.
- ◇ **Generate** comprehensive research and high-quality materials for mutual learning and awareness raising on gender equality and leadership issues, ensuring CWP is recognised as leading centre for women parliamentarians in the Commonwealth.



6th Triennial CWP Conference held in Kampala, Uganda in September 2019



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Published by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).
Registered Charity Number 263147.

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