

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE RULE OF LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS

TUESDAY 24 - THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2017
LONDON



WESTMINSTER
FOUNDATION FOR
DEMOCRACY



The Commonwealth



Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative



HOUSE OF COMMONS

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK



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Welcome Message

Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference on the Rule of Law & Human Rights Tuesday 24 - Thursday 26 January 2017

On behalf of CPA UK, and our project's partners the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, I am delighted to welcome you to London to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference on the Rule of Law and Human Rights.

Today, Parliamentary Human Rights Committees play an essential role in all of the parliamentary functions. They ensure that legislative proposals are studied, government departments and human rights bodies are scrutinised and recommendations are made. Specialised human rights committees can help parliaments to check that laws are compliant with human rights principles. There also is a strong correlation between respect of universal human rights and strong democratic governance, and by building capacity in both these areas, we can maximise the impact of the investment of resource.

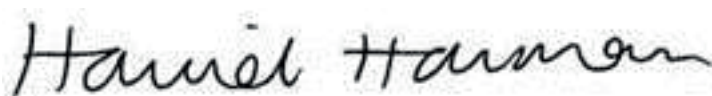
The conference will provide the opportunity for delegates to share learning, exchange experience, strengthen human rights understanding and develop procedures and good practices.

We are delighted that you will be part of the conference. We hope you will find the programme interesting, valuable and enjoyable.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Liddell-Grainger MP
Chair, CPA UK Executive Committee



Rt Hon. Harriet Harman MP
Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights

Aim & Objectives

Aim

The aim of the conference is to develop the capacity of human rights and similar committees in order to strengthen the rule of law and human rights within the Commonwealth and beyond.

Objectives

The conference objectives are:

- Objective 1. To develop capacity, skills and knowledge of parliamentarians on the rule of law, the promotion and protection of human rights, and human rights committee procedures/good practices.
- Objective 2. To strengthen existing regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Human Rights Groups for the promotion of human rights and rule of law throughout the Commonwealth regions.
- Objective 3. To capture the key learning from the conference to ensure maximum dissemination.
- Objective 4. To continue advocacy on a set of principles and / or guidelines for the promotion of rule of law and human rights for national and sub-national legislatures.

Programme

Monday 23 January 2017

All Day | Arrival Day

Tuesday 24 January - Marlborough House (Main Conference Room)

08:00-08:30	<i>Delegate Registration at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Westminster London</i>								
08:30-09:15	<i>Transport from the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Westminster to Marlborough House</i>								
09:30-10:00	<p>Welcome and Introduction to the Conference</p> <p>This session will address the topic of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law: The role of parliaments and parliamentarians today in the context of working toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, <i>Commonwealth Secretary-General</i> Rt Hon. Harriet Harman QC MP, <i>Chair, UK Joint Committee on Human Rights</i></p>								
10:00-11:00	<p>Session 1. The Role and Principles for Human Rights and Parliaments</p> <p>Effective parliaments are essential in championing and ensuring human rights-based legislation. The session will examine how parliaments can best fulfil this important role. What are the key principles for parliaments in adopting a human rights approach? How can the consideration of human rights be mainstreamed across parliament? How can expert advice on human rights be sought, and implemented into legislation? What mechanisms can be built to ensure human rights compliance in all pieces of legislation?</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG, <i>Former Lord Speaker, UK House of Lords</i></p> <p>Dr Alice Donald, <i>Middlesex University</i></p>								
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>								
11:30-13:00	<p>Session 2. Human Rights Issues Facing Parliaments</p> <p>This break out session will discuss the evolving role of Human Rights Committees. It will focus on the approach parliaments can and should take to address Human Rights issues.</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Baroness Stern CBE, <i>Member, UK House of Lords</i></p> <p>Hon. Agostinho Neto, <i>Member, Kenya National Assembly, Convenor of the KEPHRA, Member of the Commonwealth Africa Parliamentary Human Rights Group (CAPHRG)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Facilitated Workshops</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Women's Rights & Equality</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Access to Justice</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Poverty</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Facilitator: Dr Sophie Rigney</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Facilitator: Dr Justin Pettit</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Facilitator: Sadakat Kadri</i></td> </tr> </table>			Women's Rights & Equality	Access to Justice	Poverty	<i>Facilitator: Dr Sophie Rigney</i>	<i>Facilitator: Dr Justin Pettit</i>	<i>Facilitator: Sadakat Kadri</i>
Women's Rights & Equality	Access to Justice	Poverty							
<i>Facilitator: Dr Sophie Rigney</i>	<i>Facilitator: Dr Justin Pettit</i>	<i>Facilitator: Sadakat Kadri</i>							
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>								

14:00-15:30	<p>Session 3. Sharing Best Practice (1) - Parliamentary Human Rights Committees Law Making, Oversight and Scrutiny Functions</p> <p>This participatory session will allow established Human Rights Committees across the Commonwealth to analyse case studies and share best practice on law-making. This panel will also allow for consideration of oversight mechanisms and scrutiny functions.</p> <p><i>Chair: Rt Hon. Baroness Prashar CBE, Member, UK House of Lords</i></p> <p><i>Lord Fusitu'a, Legislative Assembly of Tonga, Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Gender and Equality, Chair of the Commonwealth Pacific Parliamentary Human Rights Group</i> <i>Murray Hunt, Legal Adviser, UK Joint Committee on Human Rights</i></p>
15:30-16:00	<p><i>Coffee & Tea break</i></p>
16:00-17:30	<p>Session 4 - Sharing Best Practice (2) - Parliamentary Human Rights Committees Treaty Implementation</p> <p>The purpose of this session is to consider the role of parliaments in monitoring the extent to which the State is complying with the obligations it has voluntarily undertaken in international human rights treaties such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The session will consider examples of such monitoring by parliaments, and the relationship between such national monitoring of implementation and the international machinery for reviewing States' compliance with their international human rights obligations, including the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of such compliance.</p> <p><i>Chair: Advocate Karen McKenzie, Head of Human Rights, Commonwealth Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Lenny Lebon, Former MP, Seychelles National Assembly, Advisor to the Seychelles Government, Member of the CAPHRG</i> <i>Andrea Murray, Director of Human Rights and Research, Equality and Human Rights Commission</i></p>
18:00-19:00	<p>Reception at Marlborough House</p> <p><i>Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE, UK Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN and Government Spokesperson, Foreign and Commonwealth Office; UK Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict</i> <i>Rt Hon. Harriet Harman QC MP, Chair, UK Joint Committee on Human Rights</i> <i>Dr Josephine Ojiambo, Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Commonwealth Secretariat</i></p>
19:00	<p><i>Coach departure for Hotel</i></p>

Wednesday 25 January 2017 - Houses of Parliament *(Various locations)*

09:15-09:45	<i>Transport from the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Westminster to the Houses of Parliament</i>			
10:00-11:30	<p>Session 5. Developing and Maintaining Relationships Relationship with the executive, parliament, parliamentary committees, NGOs and civil society <i>Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</i></p> <p>This session will discuss the relationship between the executive, the parliament, and other parliamentary committees. It will identify opportunities for collaboration to work effectively in legislation, scrutiny and oversight. During the session, we will hear from representatives from large international NGOs and grass roots civil society organisations. Participants will have the opportunity to develop relationships with these key external stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Chair: TBC</i></p> <p>Les Allamby, <i>Chief Commissioner, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, Chair of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions</i> Kipkemoi arap Kirui, <i>Principal Clerk, Kenya National Assembly</i> Allan Hogarth, <i>Head of Advocacy and Programmes, Amnesty International UK</i></p>			
11:30-11:45	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>			
11:45-13:30	<p>Session 6. Developing and Maintaining Relationships Skills based capacity building workshops <i>Various locations in Portcullis House</i></p> <p>This session will be the opportunity for delegates to consider the nature of their roles and functions. Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and good practices.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Chairs</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Members</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Legal Advisors & Clerks</td> </tr> </table>	Chairs	Members	Legal Advisors & Clerks
Chairs	Members	Legal Advisors & Clerks		
13:30-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>			
14:30-15:00	<p>Session 7. Briefing on the Committee Hearing including Q&A and Discussion <i>Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</i></p> <p>Murray Hunt, <i>Legal Adviser, UK Joint Committee on Human Rights</i> Professor Robert McCorquodale, <i>Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law</i></p>			
15:15-16:15	<p>Session 8. Observation of a UK Joint Committee on Human Rights Hearing Session 'Human Rights and Business' Evidence Session <i>Committee Room</i></p>			
16:15-16:45	<p>Session 9. Debriefing on the Committee Hearing session including Q&A and Discussion <i>Committee Room</i></p> <p><i>Facilitators:</i> Murray Hunt, <i>Legal Adviser, UK Joint Committee on Human Rights</i></p>			
17:00-17:45	<p>Session 10. Regional Cooperation and Support <i>(With coffee and tea served during the session)</i> <i>Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</i></p>			
17:50	<i>Coach departure for Hotel</i>			

Thursday 26 January 2017 - Houses of Parliament *(Various locations)*

The final day of the programme is designed to advance the skills developed and discussions held over the previous two days, using a key human rights issue prevalent across the Commonwealth today. Modern Slavery remains a heinous crime that Parliamentarians continue to work against. Human Rights committees are uniquely placed to scrutinise modern slavery legislation and ensure their Parliaments deliver the strongest legislation possible. The main focus of the day will be the importance of a collaborative relationship between civil society organisations and parliamentarians, offering the best support when scrutinising and refining legislation. This will be explored through a series of interactive exercises, particularly through an evidence gathering session in which groups of parliamentarians and civil society representatives will exchange and discuss their findings.

07:00-07:30	<i>Depart from the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Westminster to the Houses of Parliament (for Chairs of Committee only)</i>
07:45-08:45	<p>Session 11. Breakfast Meeting (for Chairs of Committee only) <i>CPA Room, Westminster Hall</i></p> <p>This breakfast meeting will be the opportunity for Chairs of Committee to discuss aspirations and broad outcomes from the Conference.</p>
08:15-08:45	<i>Transport from the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Westminster to the Houses of Parliament (All other delegates)</i>
09:00-09:30	<p>Session 12. Key Human Rights Issues: Modern Slavery <i>Macmillan Room, Portcullis House</i></p> <p>This short session will provide an overview of Modern Slavery as a key human rights issue around the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Rt Hon. Fiona Mactaggart MP, <i>Chair, UK Human Trafficking APPG</i> Sarah Newton MP, <i>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism</i></p>
09:30-10:45	<p>Session 13. Select Committee Hearing exercise on Human Trafficking <i>Committee Room 10</i></p> <p>Delegates will conduct an inquiry into the underlying causes of human trafficking, using the evidence gathered to contextualise discussions in the afternoon with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that combat this issue.</p>
10:45-11:15	<i>Coffee & Tea Break</i>
11:15-12:30	<p>Session 14. Evidence gathering session with NGOs <i>Macmillan Room, Portcullis House</i></p> <p>In the first part of this exercise, participants will be divided into break-out groups; selected NGOs will present case studies of their work to delegates, which will then be discussed. The second part of the exercise will see the groups reconvene and report on their findings to the rest of the participants. The aim of this session is to highlight the importance of NGOs' work in this area and the positive impact that it has on defining modern slavery and human trafficking legislation.</p>
12:40-14:00	<i>Networking Lunch and Closing Keynote Speech in State Rooms, Speaker's House</i>
14:10	<i>Coach departure for Hotel</i>

End of the Conference

Contributors Biographies

Les Allamby

Chief Commissioner, The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Les is Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, having taken up the post in September 2014.

Les is a solicitor and formerly the Director of the Law Centre (Northern Ireland). He was appointed honorary Professor of Law at the University of Ulster last year and is a trustee of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. He was a former Chair of an Advisory group to Human Rights Commission on proposals for economic and social rights within a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

He was previously the Chair of the Social Security Standards Committee for Northern Ireland, a member of the Legal Services Commission (Northern Ireland) and a member of the Legal Services

Review Group. He has undertaken election monitoring for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and International Organisation for Migration in Bosnia, Pakistan and Georgia. Les was also a former Chair of the immigration sub group (OFMDFM) and a former member of the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (Home Office).



Rt Hon. Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE

Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UN and Government Spokesperson

Baroness Anelay, a Conservative Member of the House of Lords, was appointed Minister of State with responsibility for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in August 2014. She was appointed as the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict in June 2015. Previously Chief Whip in the House of Lords, she was made a Privy Counsellor in 2009.

Lady Anelay was raised to the peerage in 1996 and served as an Opposition Spokesperson for various departments until being appointed Opposition Chief Whip in 2007. Her current role includes responsibility for FCO business in the House of Lords, Human Rights, the UN International Organisations, Peacekeeping and the International Criminal Court. She was educated at Enfield County School and Bristol, London and Brunel Universities. Lady Anelay was a history teacher between 1969 and 1974 and served as a magistrate between 1985 and 1997. She was also associated with the Citizens Advice Bureau in Woking from 1976 to 2010, including periods as a voluntary adviser, Chairman of the Management Committee and President of the CAB.

Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

The Prime Minister's Special Representative (PMSR) on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict works with governments, the UN, civil society and others to strengthen accountability and tackle impunity; provide greater support for survivors; ensure gender equality is fully integrated in all peace and security efforts; and deliver a more effective multilateral response to crimes of sexual violence in conflict. The PMSR will also promote and implement the commitments of the June 2014 Global Summit. In addition to continuing the international campaign to raise awareness, the PMSR chairs the cross-Whitehall ministerial committee which brings together the FCO, DFID, MoD and the Home Office. The committee looks at implementation of UK commitments as well as what additional support can be politically and practically provided to key partners in order to secure measurable progress. The PMSR also chairs the PSVI Steering Board with NGOs, academia and experts. The PMSR undertakes these activities on behalf of the Prime Minister and reports to her.



Dr Alice Donald

Senior Lecturer in Law, Middlesex University London

Dr Alice Donald is currently a Senior Lecturer in Law at Middlesex University London. She previously worked as a commissioner, editor and broadcast journalist with the BBC World Service from 1991 till 2005. Alice was an Associate of Global Partners from 2007 till 2010, and Senior Research Fellow at the London Metropolitan University from 2010 to 2012.

Alice holds a BA Hons in History from Emmanuel College Cambridge, an MSc in Human Rights from the London School of Economics and a PhD by Public Works, Middlesex University on 'The Implementation and Impact of the Human Rights Act 1998 in the UK'.



Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG
Former UK Lords Speaker, Member of the House of Lords

Baroness D'Souza has been a Member of the House of Lords since 2004, holding the position of Lord Speaker from 2011 till 2016. Baroness D'Souza previously had a professional career in academia, serving as a lecturer and a fellow at numerous institutes throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

Baroness D'Souza was Director of Article 19, an organisation promoting Freedom of Expression, from 1989 till 1998 and also served as Director of the Redress Trust, a Human Rights Organisation, from 2003 till 2006.



Rt Hon. Harriet Harman QC MP
Chair, UK Joint Committee on Human Rights

Rt Hon. Harriet Harman obtained a degree in Politics from York University before qualifying as a Solicitor. After working at Brent Law Centre, Harriet became Legal Officer to Liberty (then the National Council for Civil Liberties) where she took the first cases for women under the then new Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts.

At NCCL, Harriet campaigned for prisoners' rights, for a Human Rights Act and against government secrecy. Harriet was first elected MP for Peckham in 1982 and after joining a Parliament of 97% men, set up the first Parliamentary Labour Party Women's Group.

Harriet served as deputy to Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown and as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury from 1992 till 1994. Between 1995 and the 1997 General Election, Harriet served as Shadow Secretary of State for Health and then as Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security.

In 2001, Harriet was appointed Solicitor General and led a successful campaign to create the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act. In 2007 she was elected as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and appointed as Chair of the Labour Party. She also served in the Government as Leader of the House of Commons, Secretary of State for Equalities and Minister for Women.

Following her re-election as MP for Camberwell and Peckham in 2010, Harriet became acting Leader of the Opposition until September 2010. Following the 2015 General Election she became the Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights.



Allan Hogarth
Head of Advocacy and Programmes, Amnesty International UK

Head of Advocacy and Programmes at Amnesty International UK, Allan is responsible for ensuring the organisation effectively advocates for political change that will secure the human rights objectives. Influencing key stakeholders including, government ministers, civil servants, parliamentarians and other political actors, he is responsible for developing political strategies for key campaigns as well providing colleagues with sound political analysis.

He represents the organisation in high level meetings in Westminster and Whitehall and acts as a media spokesperson.



Murray Hunt
Legal Advisor, UK Joint Committee on Human Rights, Visiting Professor at Oxford University



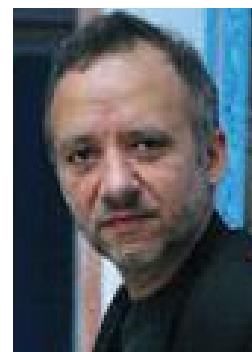
Murray Hunt is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford in Human Rights Law. He has been the Legal Adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights of the UK Parliament since March 2004. He studied law at Oxford and Harvard Law School and before taking up his current role in Parliament, he practised as a barrister for 12 years, specialising in public law and human rights. As a barrister he appeared in numerous cases concerning human rights in both the European Court of Human Rights and the UK's higher courts.

In Parliament, he advises the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) and drafts reports to Parliament on the human rights compatibility of government bills, the implementation by the government of human rights judgments (including judgments of the European Court of Human Rights), the UK's compliance with international human rights treaties and significant human rights issues of national concern.

Murray's publications cover a wide range of public law and human rights issues, but focus in particular on the national implementation of international human rights norms, the capacity of the common law to provide the necessary normative foundation for such national implementation, and the importance of democratic considerations in any contemporary account of public law and human rights.

Murray teaches an annual seminar course on the role of parliaments in the European system of human rights protection on the Human Rights Law course.

Sadakat Kadri
Associate Tenant, London's Doughty Street Chambers



Associate tenant at London's Doughty Street Chambers since 2008; full time tenant there from 1994-2008. Sadakat has specialized in Commonwealth constitutional law, criminal procedure and human rights. He additionally served as a trial observer to Israel for the Geneva-based International Parliamentary Union, and has co-written reports for the International Bar Association Human Rights.

He is the author of ; Heaven on Earth: A History of Shari'a Law; Heaven on Earth: A History of Shari'a Law; chapters in D. Maclean (ed.), The Trials of Art (London, 2007); P. Sands & M. Lattimer (eds.), Justice for Crimes Against Humanity (Oxford, 2003); Sweet & Maxwell's Human Rights Practice (2001); former columnist at the New Statesman. In addition to this, Sadakat is an occasional contributor to the Guardian, Times, Daily Telegraph, Literary Review and London Review of Books.

Rt Hon. Fiona MacTaggart MP
Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking/Modern Day Slavery

Fiona MacTaggart is the MP for Slough. She was elected in 1997 and during her time in office has been a Home Office Minister and served as a Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Fiona is secretary of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade, and is the co-Chair, with Baroness Butler-Sloss, of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking/Modern Day Slavery.

Before becoming an MP, Fiona worked for the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and a private company.



Prof Robert McCorquodale
Director, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

Professor Robert McCorquodale has been the Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) since January 2008. In this role, he has responsibility for the strategic development and management of all parts of BIICL, as well as being a researcher on a number of the projects. He is involved in training, in the organisation of events, and is the Co-General Editor of BIICL's major publication: the International and Comparative Law Quarterly.

Robert's research is primarily in public international law. This includes matters of international human rights law, the role of non-state actors, the right of self-determination, and on business and human rights issues. He has published widely on these areas, including his Cases and Materials on International Law and has assisted governments, corporations, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and peoples concerning international law and human rights issues.

Robert is also a Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the University of Nottingham, and a barrister at Brick Court Chambers in London. Previously he was a Fellow and Lecturer in Law at St. John's College, University of Cambridge and at the Australian National University in Canberra. Before embarking on an academic career, he worked as a solicitor in commercial litigation with King & Wood Mallesons in Sydney and Herbert Smith Freehills in London.



Sarah Newton MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism



Sarah Newton was appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism – with responsibility for modern slavery - at the Home Office in July 2016. She was elected Conservative MP for her home seat of Truro and Falmouth in May 2010.

Sarah was educated at Falmouth Comprehensive School before reading History at Kings College London and winning a Rotary international postgraduate scholarship to the USA.

Previously Sarah worked as a marketing officer for IBIS, Citibank and American Express. After working for American Express for 4 years she became Director of Age Concern England. Sarah is also founder and Initial director of the International Longevity Centre.

Sarah was previously a councillor on Merton Council and served as the head of Friends of Cannizaro Park.

Before her current appointment, Sarah served as Assistant Government Whip from May 2015 until July 2016.

Dr Josephine Ojiambo MD, MPH, Dip. International Relations
Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General (Political)



Dr Ojiambo began her tenure as Deputy Secretary-General (Political) at the Commonwealth Secretariat in January 2015, where she oversees the organization's political, human rights, rule of law and communications work.

Dr Ojiambo came to the Commonwealth Secretariat from the United Nations Population Fund where she served as Chief of the Executive Board and External Relations Branch with responsibility for intergovernmental relations, and also for building strategic relations with UN agencies, civil society and the private sector.

She was formerly Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations. In her role as Ambassador, she notably engaged with a range of committees at the UN General Assembly on themes including international peace and security, human rights, humanitarian aid and south-south cooperation.

Dr Ojiambo has more than 25 years of experience in international relations, diplomacy, governance and policy advocacy. She brings a strong track record in leadership, strategic and operational management, and a rights-based approach to international development, democracy building, and conflict resolution.

Dr Ojiambo, a qualified physician who practiced medicine, also trained in Diplomacy and International Relations.

Dr Justin Pettit
Human Rights Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat



Justin Pettit is a Human Rights Officer in the Human Rights Unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

His work focuses on the Universal Periodic Review, institutions, and issues surrounding implementation of human rights standards. He was previously a lecturer at the Department of Social Sciences, University of Roehampton and at the School of Law, University of Essex.

He holds a PhD in Law from the University of Essex. His doctoral dissertation explored the relationship between bilateral development assistance and human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights and the extraterritorial obligations resulting from these standards.

Rt Hon. Baroness Prashar CBE
Former Member, UK Joint Committee on Human Rights, and Member of the UK House of Lords



Baroness Prashar has led a number of public and voluntary organisations. In July 2009 she was appointed a member of the Iraq Inquiry. From 2005 to 2010 she was Chairman of the Judicial Appointments Commission. She is Deputy Chair of the British Council.

Lady Prashar served on the House of Commons and House of Lords Joint Committee on Human Rights from 2000 till 2009. As Chair and President of the Royal Commonwealth Society from 2000 till 2012 she was closely involved with its work on Human rights.

She is Governor of the Ditchley Foundation, a Trustee of Cumberland Lodge, President of the UK Council for International Student Affairs, President of the National Literacy Trust, President of the Community Foundation Network and Patron of the Runnymede Trust.

From 2000 till 2005 she was the First Civil Service Commissioner. She has served as Chairman of the Parole Board for England and Wales, Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, President of the Royal Commonwealth Society and Director of the Runnymede Trust.

Her past appointments have also included: Board member and Chancellor of De Montfort University, Chairman of the National Literacy Trust, and Governor of Salzburg Global Seminar. She served as a member of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct, the Arts Council and as a non-executive director of ITV and Channel 4.

Lady Prashar was born in Kenya and attended the Universities of Leeds and Glasgow.

In recognition of her contribution to public life she was awarded a CBE in 1994 and given a peerage in 1999. She sits in the House of Lords as a Crossbencher.

Dr Sophie Rigney
Chair, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (UK Office)

Dr. Sophie Rigney is the Chair of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (UK office). She has twenty years of experience in human rights activism and law. Sophie is currently co-appointed as a Senior Research Fellow at the Universities of Melbourne and London and holds a PhD in International Criminal Law from the Melbourne Law School. She has acted as a defence lawyer at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, and has published and taught widely on questions of human rights, post-conflict justice, and international law.



Sophie's current research focuses on Indigenous nationhood and international law.

Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations

The Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC took office as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations on 1 April 2016, becoming the first woman to hold the post of Secretary-General.

Born in Dominica to a Dominican mother and an Antiguan father, she moved to the UK at an early age. She is a lawyer by profession, becoming the first black woman and the youngest woman ever to be appointed Queen's Counsel. She was the first black woman to be appointed Deputy High Court Judge, Recorder, Master of Middle Temple, and the only woman since the post was created in 1315 to be Attorney General for England and Wales.

As a UK government minister, she undertook major reform of the criminal justice system, including the introduction of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act, and during her term of office from 2003 till 2007 crime in England and Wales was reduced to its lowest level since 1981. During this period she chaired the Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic Violence which collectively worked together to reduce domestic violence by 64% and led to £7.5bn reduction in the economic cost of domestic violence in England and Wales.



Baroness Stern CBE
Member, UK House of Lords



Baroness Stern has been an independent member of the House of Lords since 1999. From 2004 to 2008 she was a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights. She now chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Abolition of the Death Penalty and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Tajikistan. She is a vice-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Drug Policy Reform and on Women, Peace and Security.

In September 2009 she was appointed by the UK Government to review the current arrangements for dealing with cases of rape and her report - the Stern Review - was published in March 2010. In January 2014 she became co-chair of KNOW violence, a global learning initiative to combat violence against children.

She was a Visiting Professor at Essex University from 2011 to 2014, and from 1997 to 2010 she was Senior Research Fellow at the International Centre for Prison Studies at Kings College London. She is Honorary President of Penal Reform International (PRI), a non-governmental organisation promoting penal reform throughout the world which she founded with others in 1989. She is a Board Member of the International Legal Foundation in New York, USA.

She has Honorary degrees from Bristol, Oxford Brookes, Kent, Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities and is an Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics.

Delegate List

Australia: Hon. Sen. Linda Reynolds	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Australia: Hon. Graham Perrett MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Bangladesh: Hon. Shirin Akhter MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Bangladesh: Hon. Md. Mahub Ali MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Bangladesh: Dr Md. Abdur Rob Howlader	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Hon. Borislav Bojic MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Hon. Maja Gasal-Vrazalica MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Hon. Nermina Kapetanovic MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Canada: Hon. Theodore Falk MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Canada: Hon. Anthony Housefather MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Canada: Hon. Alistair Bruce MacGregor MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Canada: Julia Nicol	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Kenya: Hon. Sen. Halima Mohamud	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Kenya: Hon. Agostinho Neto MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Kenya: Kipkemoi Arap Kirui	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Lebanon: Hon. Ghassan Moukheiber MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Lebanon: Hon. Michel Moussa MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Malaysia: Hon. Kasthuri Patto MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Morocco: Hon. Abdesselam Belegchour MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Morocco: Hon. Abdellatif Ouammou MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Morocco: Youness Firano	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Pakistan National Assembly: Hon. Mehr Ishtiaq Ahmad Anwar MNA	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Pakistan National Assembly: Hon. Abdul Hakeem Baloch MNA	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Pakistan National Assembly: Saeed Ahmad Maitla	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Pakistan Senate: Hon. Sen. Kamil Ali Agha	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Pakistan Senate: Hon. Sen. Gianchand	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Pakistan Senate: Umar Ejaz Ranjha	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Republic of Serbia: Hon. Ljiljana Malusic MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Republic of Serbia: Hon. Meho Omerovic MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Republic of Serbia: Rajka Vukomanovic	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Seychelles: Lenny Steven Lebon ex-MNA	<i>Former Parliamentarian</i>
Sierra Leone: Hon. Komba Boyah MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Sierra Leone: Hon. Regina Tiange Marah MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Sierra Leone: Moriba Julius Songa	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Solomon Islands: Hon. Augustine Auga Maeue MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Solomon Islands: Hon. Derick Rawcliff Manu'ari MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Solomon Islands: Jefferson Hallu	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Swaziland: Hon. Esther Dlamini MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Swaziland: Hon. Prince Magudvulela Dlamini MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Swaziland: Isabel Dlamini	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Tonga: Hon. Lord Fusitu'a MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Tunisia: Hon. Emna Benhamaied Ep Ben Zineb MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Tunisia: Hon. Sana Salhi MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Tunisia: Chirine Gaaloul Ep Zribi	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>
Tuvalu: Hon. Otinielu Tausi MP	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Tuvalu: Andrew Semeli	<i>Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official</i>

Uganda: Hon. Jovah Kamateeka Karamagi MP

Uganda: Hon. Kenneth Lugobo MP

Uganda: Catherine Nagutta

Parliamentarian

Parliamentarian

Legal Advisor / Clerk / Parliamentary Official

Delegates Biographies

Australia

Hon. Sen. Linda Reynolds
Member, Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

Constituency: Senator for Western Australia

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: Liberal Party of Australia **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2014

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:N/A



Australia

Hon. Graham Perrett MP
Deputy-Chair, Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

Constituency: Member for Moreton, Queensland

Govt/Opp: Opposition party

Political Party: Australian Labor Party **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2007

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:N/A



Bangladesh

Hon. Shirin Akhter MP
N/A

Constituency: 265 Feni 1

Govt/Opp: Opposition party

Political Party: Jatiya Smajtantrik Dal **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2014

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:Politics and Social work



Bangladesh

Hon. Mr Md. Mahbub Ali MP
Member, Standing Committee on Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Constituency: 242 Habiganj-4

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: Bangladesh Awami League **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2014

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career: Lawyer



Bangladesh

Dr Md. Abdur Rob Howlader
Senior Secretary, Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat.

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A

First elected/appointed: 01/01/2015

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career: N/A



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Hon. Borislav Bojic MP
N/A

Constituency: RS / Election Unit 1

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: Serb Democratic Party (SDS) **First elected/appointed:** 01/10/2010

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career: N/A



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Hon. Maja Gasal-Vrazalica MP
N/A

Constituency: Croat

Govt/Opp: Opposition party

Political Party: Democratic Front **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2014

Political/Parliamentary career: Since 2015, Maja has been Chairwoman of the Council for Human Rights of the political academy of the Democratic front since being elected in 2014. She is also the Member of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the Committee on Gender Equality.

Prior Career: Professor of German language and literature at the High school Sarajevo; project manager at the German Trade Chamber in Bosnia and Herzegovina, interpreter of German-B/C/S language, negotiator for Rolls-Royce Deutschland on the field Aerodynamic (Overhaul of UH 1helicopter), project assistance at several NGOs.



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Hon. Nermina Kapetanovic MP
Member of a Committee

Constituency: Constituency 4

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: Party of democratic action (SDA) **First elected/appointed:** 01/10/2010

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career: N/A



Canada

Hon. Theodore Falk MP
Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Constituency: Provencher

Govt/Opp: Opposition party

Political Party: Conservative **First elected/appointed:** 01/11/2013

Political/Parliamentary career: Member, Canadian Heritage, Public Accounts and Public Safety Committees in 2014 and on the committee of National Defence in 2015.

Prior Career: Presently Co-Owner of Heavy Construction Company Served as President; Board Chair of Steinbach Credit Union



Canada

Hon. Anthony Housefather MP
Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Constituency: Mount Royal
Govt/Opp: Governing party
Political Party: Liberal Party of Canada **First elected/appointed:** 19/10/2015

Political/Parliamentary career: MP for Mount Royal and Chair of Standing Committee on Human Rights 2015. Mayor of the City of Cote-Saint Luc from 2005 to 2015. City Councillor 1994-2005
Prior Career: Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Dialogic, a multinational technology company 1997-2015



Canada

Hon. Alistair Bruce MacGregor MP
Deputy-Critic for Canadian Heritage; Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Constituency: Cowichan-Malahat-Langford (Vancouver Island, BC)
Govt/Opp: Opposition party
Political Party: NDP **First elected/appointed:** 19/10/2015

Political/Parliamentary career:
Prior Career: Worked for a former MP for seven years

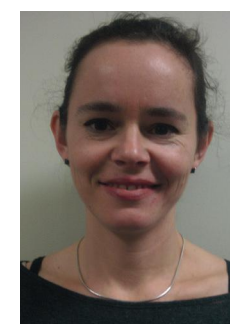


Canada

Ms Julia Nicol
Analyst - Legal advisor

Constituency: N/A
Govt/Opp: N/A
Political Party: **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2015

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A
Prior Career: N/A



Kenya

Hon. Sen. Halima Mohamud
Member of the Education, Labor and Social Welfare Committee



Constituency: Wajir County
Govt/Opp: Opposition party
Political Party: Orange Democratic Movement **First elected/appointed:** 01/03/2013
Political/Parliamentary career: N/A
Prior Career: Worked with an NGO

Kenya

Hon. Agostinho Neto MP
Convener of the Kenya Parliamentary Human Rights Association, Serves in the
Committees of Delegated Legislation as well as Justice and Legal Affairs



Constituency: Ndiwa Constituency
Govt/Opp: Opposition party
Political Party: Orange Democratic Movement **First elected/appointed:** 01/09/2012
Political/Parliamentary career: N/A
Prior Career: Lawyer

Kenya

Mr Kipkemoi arap Kirui
N/A



Constituency: N/A
Govt/Opp: N/A
Political Party: **First elected/appointed:** 07/11/2003
Political/Parliamentary career: N/A
Prior Career: N/A

Kingdom of Tonga

Hon. Lord Fusitu'a MP

Chairman for Parliamentary Standing Committee on Anticorruption; Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) Tonga Chapter. Co Chairman for Parliamentary Standing Committee on Population and Development and Standing Committee on Gender and Equality (AFPPD). Members for Parliament Standing Committee on Legislation, Privileges, Retirement Fund Board, Social Services. Executive Board Member for the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) Oceania



Constituency: Noble Representative for the Ongo Niuas; Estate -Sapaâata, Faletanu and the east of Angaha and Maâuufanga, Niua Foâou

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:** 22/05/2014

Prior Career: Executive Director Spartan South Pacific Group Limited November 2013- Present (1 year 9 months). Director Priority Consulting Group January 2013- Present (2 years 7 months). Independent Legal Counsel SMG 2008 -Present (7 years). Managing Director and Co-Owner Champion South Pacific (SMG) 2008 -2010 (2 years). Director FEXCO (Tonga) Ltd. 2008 -2009 (1 year). Director Lucky Draw Ltd 2006- 2008 (2 years). Director Luxury Homes Co. Ltd 2006- 2008 (2 years). Director Villa Tour Company Ltd. 2006- 2008 (2 years). Legal Counsel under retainer Global Business Development Group 2006-2008 (2 years). Director Vai Langi Company Ltd. 2005- 2006 (1 year). Legal Counsel Pacific Asia Global Holdings Ltd. 2003- 2006 (3 years). Acting Deputy Secretary of Justice Ministry of Justice - Kingdom of Tonga 2002-2003 (1 year). Crown Counsel Crown Law Department - Kingdom of Tonga 2000-2002 (2 years).

Lebanon

Hon. Ghassan Moukheiber MP

Rapporteur of Human Rights Committee

Constituency: Mount Lebanon

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: Change and Reform Parliamentary Bloc **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2002



Political/Parliamentary career: Member of the Justice and Administration parliamentary committee and the environment committee. Member of a number of regional and international parliamentary associations.

Prior Career: Lawyer and activist in a number of Lebanese civil society organizations dealing with the areas of human rights, anti-corruption, democratization, the rule of law and conflict resolution.

Lebanon

Hon. Michel Moussa MP

Chair of Human Rights Committee and Member of the Parliamentary Bureau

Constituency: South of Lebanon

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: Development and Liberation Parliamentary Bloc **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/1992



Political/Parliamentary career: Member of Parliament since 1992. Member of Parliamentary Health Committee and Environment Committee. Member of the Human Rights Committee in the Parliamentary Assembly of Euro- Mediterranean Partnership. Minister of Labour and Social Affairs in 1998. Minister of Environment in 2000. Minister of State in 2004.

Prior Career: Cardiologist

Malaysia

Hon. Kasthuri Patto MP

Secretary of Women's Caucus (Malaysian Parliament); Member of the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee (Malaysian Parliament); Secretary of Caucus on Displaced People of Sri Lanka (Malaysian Parliament)

Constituency: Batu Kawan, Penang

Govt/Opp: Opposition

Political Party: Democratic Action Party **First elected/appointed:** 05/05/2013

Political/Parliamentary career: Member of Parliamentarians for Global Action on the Abolition of the Death Penalty; Member of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR); Member of Women in Parliament (WIP)

Prior Career: Microbiologist (Gribbles Pathology) (2004-2009); Coordinations Officer with Selangor state EXCO for Local Government (2010-2012); Political Secretary to DAP Parliamentary Leader Lim Kit Siang (2012-2013); Member of Parliament for Batu Kawan, Penang (2013 - present)



Morocco

Hon. Abdesselam Belegchour MP

Chair of the Justice, Legislation, and Human Rights Committee at the House of Councillors, Morocco Parliament

Constituency: Casablanca-Settat Region

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: Party of Authenticity and Modernity (PAM) **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2000

Political/Parliamentary career: President of a Local Council in Casablanca- Settat Region (Urban Council of Zemamra). Member of the Bureau of Justice, Legislation, and Human Rights. Previously, Chair of the Agriculture and Productive Sectors Comm

Prior Career: N/A



Morocco

Hon. Abdellatif Ouammou MP

Member of the board of the Justice, Legislation, and Human Rights Committee at the House of Councillors, Morocco Parliament

Constituency: Souss- Massa Region

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: local collectivities in the chamber of representatives between 2003 and 2005 **First elected/appointed:**

Political/Parliamentary career: Mr Ouammou has been involved in politics since 1969, when he joined the Socialism and Liberation Party (PLS), which later became the Progress and Socialist Party). Abdellatif Ouammou was elected to the House of Representatives. He became a Member of Parliament representing Tiznit from 1997 to 2002, and during this time he was Vice President of the Commission of Justice, Legislation and Human rights. He is currently a Member of the Commission to the second chamber of Moroccan Parliament. Mr Ouammou was elected president of the municipality council in 2003. The same year he was re-elected member of the House of Representatives and re-elected as a President of the city council in the elections 2009 until 2015. He is currently a coordinator of the Group 'progressive action' in the House of Councillors after being a member of the Socialist Alliance Group in the House of Representatives, which he was president of in 2006 and 2009. He was elected a Vice-President of the interior.

Prior Career: He was officially registered with the Lawyers Association on November 25th 1972. Abdellatif Ouammou was elected President of Lawyers Association between 1990 and 1993. He is a member of Moroccan Association of Lawyers. He is also a member of Federation of International Lawyers (UIA) and also a member of International Association of Lawyers. He is the founding member of Moroccan Association of Human Rights (AMDH) and later the founding member of The Moroccan Organisation of Human Rights (OMDH) where he was a member of the national board in addition to his activities in National and international lawyers NGOs.



Morocco

Mr Youness Firano

Clerk of the Justice, Legislation, and Human Rights Committee at the House of Councillors, Morocco Parliament



Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: Non affiliated **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2015

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:N/A

Pakistan

Hon. Sen. Kamil Ali Agha

Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage



Constituency: Punjab, Pakistan

Govt/Opp: Opposition Party

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:**

Political/Parliamentary career: He was elected as Counselor in 1979; Chairman of Health and Sanitation Department, Lahore, in 1979; Councilor in 1983; Deputy Leader of House, Lahore Corporation, in 1983; Councilor in 1990; Deputy Mayor, Lahore, in 1990; Member, National Assembly, in 1997; Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, 1999; Senator in 2003; Chairman of Standing Committee on Communications and Railways, 2004-2009; First Chief Whip in the Senate from January 2004. In addition, Senator Agha has remained Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs from April 2006; Opposition Leader in Senate of Pakistan, April 2008 to March 2009; Member of Provincial Working Committee, PML, Punjab; Member of Central Working Committee, PML, Punjab; Additional General Secretary, Pakistan Muslim League, Punjab; Secretary Information, Pakistan Muslim League, Punjab and Chief Editor of Muslim League News a fortnightly magazine. He has also served as Chief Coordinator to Chief Minister Secretariat.

Prior Career: BA & LLB degree

Pakistan

Hon. Sen. Gianchand

Senator



Constituency: Sindh, Pakistan

Govt/Opp: Opposition Party

Political Party: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) **First elected/appointed:** 15/03/2015

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:Qualification: B.E. Sindh Agriculture University (1989)

Pakistan

Mr Umar Ejaz Ranjha

N/A

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2015

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:N/A



Pakistan

Hon. Mehr Ishtiaq Ahmad Anwar MNA

Member, Standing Committee on Human Rights

Constituency: Lahore IV

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: Pakistan Muslim League (N) **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2013

Political/Parliamentary career: Mr. Mehr Ishtiaq Ahmad, MNA is an active Member of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Human Rights and as such has remained engaged in promoting awareness of Human Rights particularly Children Rights. The Member has also introduced a bill titled "Employment of Children Act" in the National Assembly of Pakistan which has been thoroughly debated in the National Assembly and subsequently referred to the concerned Standing Committee for further examination. One of the salient features of the bill is that the children may not be employed unless they have completed their basic education.

Prior Career:N/A



Pakistan

Hon. Abdul Hakeem Baloch MNA

Member, Standing Committee on Human Rights

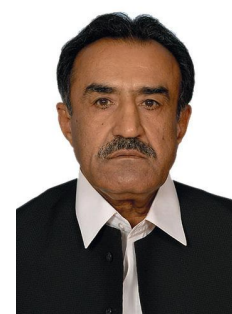
Constituency: Karachi XX

Govt/Opp: Opposition party

Political Party: Pakistan Peoples' Party Parliamentarians **First elected/appointed:**

Political/Parliamentary career: Mr. Abdul Hakeem Baloch, MNA is a proactive Member of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Human Rights. In his capacity as such, Mr. Baloch has introduced various important Legislation in the National Assembly of Pakistan particularly the Child Marriage Restraint Bill that was introduced in the National Assembly by the Hon. Member. The bill is currently in the process of debate and also referred to the concerned Standing Committee for examination.

Prior Career:N/A



Pakistan

Mr Saeed Ahmad Maitla
Secretary to the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: **First elected/appointed:**

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:N/A



Republic of Serbia

Hon. Ljiljana Malusic MP
Member of the Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender
Equality- Deputy Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: Governing Party

Political Party: Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) **First elected/appointed:** 14/04/2014

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:N/A



Republic of Serbia

Hon. Meho Omerovic MP
Chairperson of the Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender
Equality, Member of the Security Services Control Committee, Deputy Member
of the Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity
Issues, Member of the Delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE.

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: Governing Party

Political Party: Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS) **First elected/appointed:** 22/01/2001

Political/Parliamentary career: Chairperson of the Committee on Labor, Veteran and Social Issues. Chairperson
of the Committee on Inter/Ethnic Relations

Prior Career:



Republic of Serbia

Ms Rajka Vukomanovic

N/A

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:** 2013

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:N/A



Seychelles

Mr Lenny Steven Lebon ex-MNA

CEO

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: Parti Lepep **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2011

Political/Parliamentary career: Member of the National Assembly 2011- 2016 for the District of Grand Anse Mahe. Member of the Finance and Public Accounts. NEC Member for Plaisance, 2003. NEC Member of the SPPF Youth Organisation Think Tank, 2009.

Prior Career:Lecturer at Seychelles University



Sierra Leone

Hon. Regina Tiange Marah MP

Member, Human Rights and Communication Committees

Constituency: Kailahun District

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: All Peoples Congress (APC) **First elected/appointed:** 03/12/2013

Political/Parliamentary career: Hon. Marah is a Member of Parliament for constituency 005 in the Kailahun district and was born in the Jojoima Malema Chiefdom. She has a Higher National Diploma in Business Administration, a Diploma in Economics and Accounting and a Diploma in Community Development Studies. She has worked with many development organizations for over twenty years in various capacities (as Project Officer, Finance Officer, Gender Director and Executive Director). As a development oriented person Hon. Marah entered politics with a determination to help develop her constituency and is working extremely hard towards this goal. As the first female parliamentarian in her constituency, she is working tirelessly to promote women and children's rights and to inspire other women to actively take part in decision-making that affects their wellbeing.

Prior Career:Worked with development organisations for 22 years.



Sierra Leone

Hon. Komba Boyah MP
Chair, Human Rights Committee

Constituency: Kono District

Govt/Opp: Opposition party

Political Party: Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2009



Political/Parliamentary career: Hon. K.E.S Boyah is an opposition Sierra Leone Peoples' Party (SLPP) elected Member of Parliament for Constituency 26. This is the only seat out of seven occupied by the ruling All Peoples Congress (APC) Party since 2007. As Chairperson, he has worked assiduously in collaborating with the National Human Rights Commission and non-governmental Human Rights Organizations in the promotion of rights and justice, through Parliamentary Oversights and other engagements. His profound passion for justice for Children, Women and those behind bars, has over the years plunged the Committee into many investigations working with organizations such as Prison Watch Sierra Leone, the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police, Human Rights Defenders, Correctional centres and the Justice Sector. The results of these workings has resulted in stakeholders' collaborations in finding solutions.

Prior Career: Mr. Boyah served for thirty years in the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) where he rose to the rank of Brigadier –General. He retired as the Assistant Chief of Defense Staff for Logistics and Personnel. He holds an M.Sc Degree in Strategic Studies from the University of Ibadan, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Sierra Leone

Mr Moriba Julius Songa
Committee Clerk, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of
Economic Planning and Development and Ministry of Commerce, Industry and
Trade

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2015



Political/Parliamentary career: Mr. Songa hails from Kailahun District, Eastern Sierra Leone. He joined Parliament in 2009 through the United Nations Capacity Building Fund for the Legislature of Sierra Leone that was implemented by the IOM, Sierra Leone Office. He has completed several professional trainings both at Home and in the United Kingdom sponsored by both the United Nations and the CPA. These trainings have equipped him to serve the Committee Department with independence and dexterity. Since his recruitment, Mr. Songa has served as Clerk to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Sierra Leone Parliament (2009-2013), Human Rights Committee (2009-present), Transport and Aviation Committee (2010-present) and as Lead Clerk for the Committee on Supply and in various select joint and ad-hoc Committees.

Prior Career: Senior Teacher, Economics and Geography in the Grammar School (1996-2002); Researcher/ Cartographer, GIS Department at Statistics Sierra Leone (2002-2005).

Solomon Islands

Hon. Derick Rawcliff Manu'ari MP
Chair, Parliamentary House committee

Constituency: West Makira

Govt/Opp: Opposition party

Political Party: Solomon Islands People First Party **First elected/appointed:** 19/11/2014



Political/Parliamentary career: Chair, Parliamentary House Committee, 2014 -

Prior Career: Under Secretary responsible for RAMSI (Office of the Prime Minister & Cabinet), 2011 - 2012; Parliamentary Committee Secretary and Research Officer, National Parliament Office, 2007 - 2008; Graduate Trainee, Parliamentary Strengthening Project, National Parliament Office, 2006 - 2007; Public Relations and Information Officer, 2005 -2006

Solomon Islands

Hon. Augustine Auga Maeue MP
Member, Bills Committee

Constituency: Lau Mbaelelea Constituency

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: Solomon Islands Democratic Party **First elected/appointed:** 19/11/2014

Political/Parliamentary career: Member, Education & Human Resources Training Committee, 2015 - ; Member, Police, National Security and Correctional Services Committee, 2015 - ; Minister for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, August 2015 - October 2015; Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, December 2014 - August 2015

Prior Career:Self-employed



Solomon Islands

Mr Jefferson Hallu
N/A

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2015

Political/Parliamentary career: N/A

Prior Career:N/A



Swaziland

Hon. Prince Magudvulela Dlamini MP
Member, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Portfolio Committee;
Member, Ministry of Public Service Portfolio Committee

Constituency: Appointee

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:** 01/10/2008

Political/Parliamentary career: Member, Joint House Committee Member, 2008-2013; Member, Senate Standing Order Committee, 2008-2013; Member, Children's Committee, 2008-2013; Member, Committee of Privileges

Prior Career:Swaziland Electricity Company



Swaziland

Hon. Esther Dlamini MP

Chair, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Portfolio Committee;
Member, Women's Parliamentary Caucus; Member, Deputy Prime Minister's
Portfolio Committee

Constituency: Mbabane East

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2003

Political/Parliamentary career: Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly, 2008 - 2013,
2013 -

Prior Career: Police Officer



Swaziland

Mrs Isabel Dlamini

Committee Clerk, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of
Economic Planning and Development and Ministry of Commerce, Industry and
Trade.

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2015

Political/Parliamentary career: Committee Clerk, Ministry of Labour and Social Security,
2009-2015; Ministry of Education and Training 2009-2015; Committee Clerk, Ministry
of Housing Urban Development, 2010-2014; Committee Clerk, Pan African Parliament,
2009-2012; Clerk, Finance Committee, 2007-2009

Prior Career: Research Assistant, Family Life Association of Swaziland and Population
Services International (PSI)



Tunisia

Hon. Emna Benhamaied Ep Ben Zineb MP

Member of the Committee on Rights and Freedoms and External Relations,
the committee of the examination and sorting of applications for the Truth
and Dignity Instance and the committee for Women, Family, Children, Youth
and the Elderly.

Constituency: Bizerte

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: Ennahdha Mouvement Party **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2014

Political/Parliamentary career: Member of Ennahdha Mouvement Party's regional
office in Bizerte dealing with women's affairs.

Prior Career: Secondary School computing teacher and computer engineer.



Tunisia

Hon. Sana Salhi MP

Second Deputy Rapporteur of the Rights and Freedoms and Foreign Relations Committee. Member of the Committee for Martyrs and the Wounded of the Revolution, the Application of the Law of the General Amnesty and Transitional Justice. Former member of the Committee on Youth, Cultural Affairs, Education and Scientific Research. Former member of the Committee for Women, Family, Children, Youth and the Elderly.



Constituency: Siliana

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: Nidaa Tounes Movement Party **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2014

Political/Parliamentary career: Member of Nidaa Tounes Movement Party since 2013.

Prior Career: Secondary school teacher

Tunisia

Mrs Chirine Gaaloul Ep Zribi

Clerk to the Committee of Rights and Freedoms and Foreign Relations

Constituency:

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2016

Political/Parliamentary career:

Prior Career: Manager at the Presidency of the Government



Tuvalu

Hon. Otinielu Tausi MP

Constituency: Nanumaga

Govt/Opp:

Political Party: Independent **First elected/appointed:**

Political/Parliamentary career:

Prior Career:



Tuvalu

Andrew Semeli
Acting clerk

Constituency:

Govt/Opp:

Political Party: **First elected/appointed:**

Political/Parliamentary career:

Prior Career:

Uganda

Hon. Jovah Kamateeka Karamagi MP
Chair, Parliamentary Human Rights Committee

Constituency: Mitooma

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: National Resistance Movement **First elected/appointed:** 15/05/2011

Political/Parliamentary career: Member, Finance Committee, 2016; Member, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, 2011-2016; Member, Budget Committee 2011-2015

Prior Career: Under Secretary, Uganda Law Reform Commission, 2002-2010; Principal Assistant Secretary, State House, 1997-1999; Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, 1993-1997; Senior Assistant Secretary, Constitutional Commission, 1990-1993; Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Water and Energy, 1989-1990



Uganda

Hon. Kenneth Lubogo MP
Chair, Committee on Trade; Member, Human Rights Committee

Constituency: Bulamogi County

Govt/Opp: Governing party

Political Party: National Resistance Movement **First elected/appointed:** 01/01/2011

Political/Parliamentary career: Member of Parliament, 2011 -

Prior Career: Lecturer, Bugema University, 2013 - ; Administrator, Africa Harvest Mission, 2007-2011; Senior Revenue Officer, Uganda Revenue Authority, 1997-2006; Audit Assistant, Cephas and Associates Public Accountants, 1996-1997



Uganda

Ms Catherine Nagutta

Senior Legal Research Officer, Human Rights Committee

Constituency: N/A

Govt/Opp: N/A

Political Party: N/A **First elected/appointed:** 2013

Political/Parliamentary career: Legal research officer and Lawyer, 2007-2013

Prior Career:N/A



Background Information

Commonwealth Human Rights Committees

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) has collated some basic background material on a number of parliamentary human rights committees in Commonwealth countries.

It was unable to gather much information for the committees in Cyprus, Nigeria and Pakistan. It has also included, for reference, details about the Kenyan parliamentary caucus which does not have the powers that recognised committees possess, and which is more akin to the All-Party Parliamentary Groups which are found in the Westminster system. The Commonwealth Secretariat is promoting the growth of such caucuses and highlighting the role of legislative champions for human rights in those parliaments which – for various reasons – do not want to set up full-scale human rights committees.

This brief analysis indicates that the concerns of human rights committees vary widely, reflecting issues relevant to their own countries and administrations. Furthermore, the powers of these committees, their ability to take evidence outside parliament, and their budgets also have an impact upon legislation and public opinion. Where there are already human rights commissions it is usual for parliamentary committees to scrutinise their work. It has not been possible to gather information on many of the important aspects of the work of human rights committees, which will no doubt be shared by MPs attending the conference.

The CHRI has offered some thoughts on the impact of these committees and of their reports on administration, in some cases relying on external comments from Human Rights Watch. These estimates should be treated with caution, for only close political observers of each parliamentary human rights committee are in a position to make an impartial judgment of impact. Nonetheless the CHRI thought it would be a contribution to debate to attempt such an estimate.

The CHRI would like to acknowledge with thanks the work of its researcher, Tom Cleary, who put together this briefing.

Richard Bourne
For the CHRI
London

ASIA & PACIFIC REGIONS

Australia

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

Date formed

13 March 2012

Terms of Reference

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights was established by the Human Rights Scrutiny Act 2011. The committee's main function is to examine all bills and legislative instruments for compatibility with human rights, and to report to both Houses of Parliament on its findings.

Annual reports

2013-2014 : www.humanrights.gov.au

2014-2015 : www.humanrights.gov.au

Human rights considered by the committee are defined in the Act as the rights and freedoms contained in the seven core human rights treaties that Australia is a party to. The committee usually publishes a scrutiny report in each joint sitting week. The reports provide a view on the compatibility of bills introduced into Parliament. The committee's reports primarily focus on legislation which raises human rights concerns.

- Submission on Exposure Draft Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill (PDF)
- Submission on Media Reform Bills Package

Impact on government

Each report has a section on its key achievements of that year. For example, in November 2014, the Children's Rights Report 2014 was tabled in Parliament. It included ground-breaking data on child-self harm with or without suicidal intent, and highlighted the need for further research in this area: 140 submissions were received from a range of organisations and individuals and 154 people participated in expert roundtables across Australia. The report identified a number of areas where empirical evidence is lacking, including how and why children engage in intentional self-harm, the psychological mechanisms underlying suicide clusters and the impact of current interventions and support programs. A child-friendly version of the report was also launched in December 2014.

Fiji

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

Date formed

2009

Terms of Reference

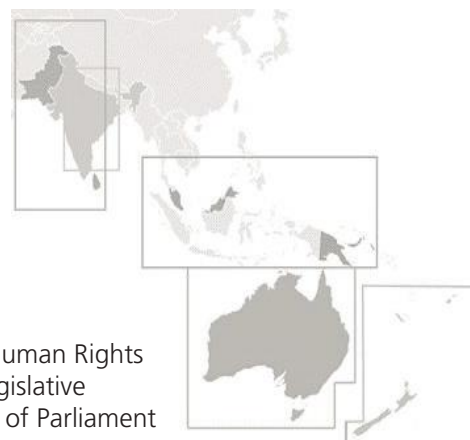
To educate the general public about human rights and to make recommendations to the government about matters affecting human rights.

Number of Members

Five

Impact on administration

Due to the political turmoil the country has experienced since 2006 other agencies and organisations have, in addition, pointed out the need for a revised direction in human rights protection. For example, Human Rights Watch issued a report in 2014 urging UN member states to put pressure on the Fijian government to end the human rights violations it was accused of committing. The 2010 Media decree that any publication that seems to go against public interest or order should be prohibited suggested that the parliamentary committee had yet to make an impact.



Pakistan

The Committee on Human Rights

Number of Members at the Senate

20 members, including one Chairperson

Number of Members at the National Assembly

21 members, including one Chairperson

Reports

http://www.senate.gov.pk/en/committee_report

AMERICAS and the CARIBBEAN REGION

Canada

The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Date formed

30th of September 1997

Terms of reference

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights has the power to review and report on the policies, programs, and expenditure plans of the Department of Justice, which has the mandate to support the dual roles of the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada (the chief law officer of the Crown).

The Committee also has the power to study the policies, programs and legislation of the following entities:

- Canadian Human Rights Commission
- Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs Canada
- Supreme Court of Canada
- Courts Administration Service
- Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada
- Public Prosecution Service of Canada

Number of Members

Ten

Reports

In recent years, the Committee has studied numerous government and private members' bills, produced several substantive reports, and considered various Order in Council appointments. Among the most notable reports produced and government bills studied are the following:

- An Act to amend the Criminal Code (passive detection device):
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/>

Trinidad and Tobago

The Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity

Date formed

13th November 2015

Terms of reference

The Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity, shall have the duty of considering, from time to time, and reporting whenever necessary, on all matters related to:

1. The compatibility of Acts of Parliament with human rights, and any matters relating to human rights in Trinidad and Tobago (but excluding consideration of individual cases);
2. Government compliance with national and international human rights instruments to which Trinidad and Tobago is a party;
3. The promotion of measures designed to enhance the equalisation of opportunities and improvement in the quality of life and status of all peoples including marginalised groups on the basis of gender, age (elderly, youth, children) disability and the creation of an inclusive and more equitable society through greater social justice and sustainable human development within Trinidad and Tobago (http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business)

Number of Members

Nine



Reports produced

The First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity (First Session, Eleventh Parliament) on the Support Programs and Services for children whose parent or guardian was the perpetrator or victim of a violent offence.

The Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity (First Session, Eleventh Parliament) on the Challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities with Specific focus on Access to Services and Employment.

Impact on administration

The reports of the Support Programs and Services for children and persons with disabilities are in themselves an effective step forward for detailing and acknowledging the issues faced by the problems faced through discrimination and prejudice. A number of children's initiatives have been established such as a Children's Registry to develop and devise strategies by tracking each child from birth. Another includes the introduction of nine support groups for parents and children. Furthermore, the government has committed itself to addressing the issues faced by persons with disabilities by reviewing the legal framework, accurately recording statistics and creating more awareness and sensitisation.

EUROPE REGION

Cyprus

The Committee on Human Rights and on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women

Date formed

9th June 2011

Number of Members

Nine

United Kingdom

Joint Committee on Human Rights

Date formed

31st January 2001 (first meeting, but established at end of 1997-2001 Labour government). Unusually for a select committee this has members from both the House of Lords and House of Commons.

Terms of reference

The Committee's work includes scrutinising every Government Bill for its compatibility with human rights, including:

- The rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) protected in UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998
- Common law fundamental rights and liberties
- The Human Rights contained in other international obligations of the UK

This scrutiny of Bills includes consideration of whether the Bill presents an opportunity to enhance human rights in the UK. The committee also scrutinises the Government's response to court judgments concerning human rights, and the UK's compliance with its human rights obligations contained in a range of international treaties. From time to time, the committee will conduct thematic inquiries, where the committee chooses its own subjects of inquiry and seeks evidence from a wide range of groups and individuals with relevant experience and interest.

The committee is also required to report to Parliament on any remedial order made under the Human Rights Act 1998. A remedial order is a form of delegated legislation. Remedial Orders seek to correct breaches of human rights, identified by either domestic courts or the European Court of Human Rights, between UK law and the ECHR.

Number of Members

Nine

Example of Reports:

- 1st Report - Legislative Scrutiny: Investigatory Powers Bill | PDF version 1st Report - Legislative Scrutiny: Investigatory Powers Bill | PDF version
- 2nd Report - Counter-Extremism | PDF version 2nd Report - Counter-Extremism | PDF version

Impact on administration

The committee has successfully lobbied for amendments to numerous bills. The following legislation or draft legislation have been amended to take account of human rights concerns: the Enterprise Bill of Session 2001-2002; the Draft Civil Contingencies Bill of Session 2002-03; the Licensing Bill of Session 2002-03; the Nottingham City Council Bill (a private bill during Session 2003-03); the Courts Bill of Session 2002-03; the Criminal Justice Bill of Session 2002-03; the Crime (International Co-operation) Bill of Session 2002-03; the Housing Bill of Session 2003-04; the Civil Partnership Bill of Session 2003-04; the Draft School Transport Bill of Session 2003-04; and the Mental Capacity Bill of Sessions 2003-04 and 2004-05. The committee has also achieved its goal of reporting on all government bills before the second reading debate happens in the second house. The committee does not comment on British foreign policy and human rights situations outside the UK, which is the province of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Rights.



AFRICA REGION

Kenya Caucus

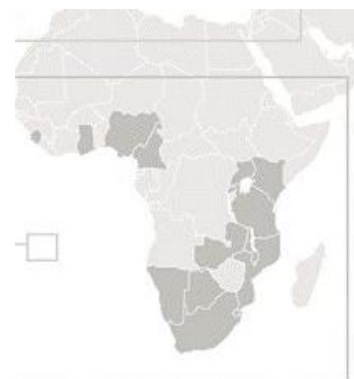
The Kenyan Parliamentary Human Rights Association (KEPHRA)

www.humanrightsmps.org

Date formed

2013

This Caucus was subsequently set up under the Societies Act, 2014, recognised by both houses of Parliament, and has cross-party membership of 15-20 from six political parties. It is not a Human Rights Committee, and is more comparable to All Party Parliamentary Groups in other Commonwealth parliaments. It was set up by parliamentarians who were frustrated that they could not get agreement to set up a formal committee.



Terms of Reference

To promote and protect human rights in Kenya through legislation, representation, and oversight in Parliament. The objectives in its 2015-2018 strategic plan are: to build capacity in the Caucus itself; to enhance the state's capacity to protect human rights through policy and legislation; to oversee Kenya's compliance with rights obligations; to hold the state accountable for human rights violations, participating in thematic fact-finding inquiries, including in security and the administration of justice.

Funding and relationships

The Caucus has sufficient funds to hold meetings and fact-finding inquiries. It has good working relations with civil society, development partners and UN bodies.

Impact on administration

It has had a role in spearheading legislation, speaking out on the condition of refugees in Kenya, and monitoring the work of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. In listing impediments to the improvement of human rights in its current strategic plan it warns of: narrow appeals by politicians for ethnic kinship support and the danger of kinship obligations; corruption; the lack of effective promotion and enforcement by government and parastatal agencies; the impact of debt on the ability to finance human rights; and differing views on rights, including the lack of attention to socioeconomic rights.

Nigeria

The Judiciary Human Rights and Legal Matters Committee

Date formed

1995

Terms of reference

It serves as an extra-judicial mechanism for the enhancement of the enjoyment of human rights. Its establishment is aimed at creating an enabling environment for the promotion, protection and enforcement of human rights. It also provides avenues for public enlightenment, research and dialogue in order to raise awareness on human rights issues.

Sierra Leone

The Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Human Rights

Date formed

2006

Members

16

Terms of reference

“There shall be a Committee to be known as the ‘Human Rights Committee’ consisting of sixteen Members, nominated by the Committee on selection for the approval of the plenary at the beginning of each session or as soon thereafter as may be convenient. It shall be the duty of the Committee to protect and promote human rights in the country, through its receptivity to developments in human rights awareness internationally and by working in collaboration with domestic as well as international human rights bodies”.

The Committee has its strategic plan that guides its collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission and other related governmental and nongovernmental human rights organizations. Addressing the various Human Rights issues in Sierra Leone through the appropriate justice system is always a prime concern of the committee.

Impacts

The Human Rights Committee works in close collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission and other rights organizations to ensure that the Human Rights Commission Act of 2004 is implemented. For example, the committee and the human rights overseeing human rights issues have, over the years, observed that the number of judges and Magistrates still fall far below what it takes to deliver swift and effective justice. The multiplier effects of this have, on many occasions, led to continued incarceration of accused persons as a result of frequent adjournments and infrequent court sittings. This is also due to the circuit court systems that requires Magistrates to rove several districts at different convenient time frames.

Uganda*The Committee on Human Rights Affairs***Date formed**

November 2012

Terms of reference

The Human Rights Committee is mandated to ensure human rights compliance of all legislation passed in Parliament. It is also mandated to consider reports submitted to Parliament by the Ugandan Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and make recommendations for discussion on the floor of the house. All bills are now scrutinised from a human rights perspective and the committee has created more awareness of and debate around human rights issues in the Parliament. The three-year backlog of UHRC reports has now been cleared.

Members

Seven

Impact on administration

Human Rights Watch has documented the work of the Human Rights Committee since 1997. Its report notes the importance of the committee in not shying away from identifying government culprits, especially security officials. It also documents the success of the committee in complying with human rights norms in matters of importance. However, the organisation points out that the committee is severely underfunded and has not made any significant impact on the movement system (the political movement of President Museveni) and the violations of human and civil rights, and it has made no statement on these contentious issues.

Case Studies

Session 2 - Human Rights issues facing Parliaments

CASE STUDY 1: *Women's Rights & Equality*

Government of Canada, House of Commons, Standing Committee on the Status of Women, Study on Violence against Aboriginal Women and Girls Interim Report, March 2011; Final Report, December 2011

The Standing Committee on the Status of Women produced a full report on the subject of violence against Aboriginal women in March 2011. The Committee published an interim report in the House of Commons, drawing from evidence taken in Ottawa, and in 14 communities across Canada, and from more than 150 witnesses (1).

In the final report, the Committee focused on the empowerment of Aboriginal girls and women through supporting their desire for a better life.

A link to the full report can be found here: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/parl/XC71-1-411-01-eng.pdf

During the period from April 2010 and February 2011, the Committee conducted fact-finding visits to Aboriginal urban communities, including Iqaluit, Labrador City and Fredericton. During some fact-finding visits, the Committee visited local organizations and service providers that helped women in the area.

The report's goal was to gain a better understanding of the extent and nature of violence, as well as to give a voice to the women and men who shared their stories with the Committee.

The Committee's set of guiding principles are:

- ***Listening to Aboriginal people and enabling communities***

The Committee emphasizes the importance of working with Aboriginal people to find solutions to the violence in their communities. It also mentions the importance of acknowledgment of the Aboriginal community, including the recognition of culture and beliefs and resisting the temptation to impose solutions on their communities.

In Winnipeg, the Committee visited the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, which is noted as being a thriving place that brought Aboriginal children and families together. The centre responds to the needs of the community instead of meeting the needs that centre staff identify for the people. The centre was exactly what witnesses who took part in the evidence asked for (2).

- ***A coordinated, holistic approach to violence against Aboriginal women***

The Committee detailed the importance of dealing with other outside influences and systems that make women vulnerable to violence. The committee notes the proposal to consider the request of witnesses who called on the federal government to put in place a national action plan. The committee also suggests the interventions on a number of fronts in a strategic, coordinated effort. This includes issues related to poverty, child welfare, missing and murdered women and the justice system.

The committee also suggests for the federal and provincial/territorial governments to coordinate their efforts.

The Committee recommended in the final report that (3):

1. The review of federal Post-Secondary Student Support Program consider and address the particular situation of Aboriginal women escaping violence.
2. The federal government work towards removing barriers to economic growth for on-reserve Aboriginal peoples, with a particular focus on barriers to the full economic participation of Aboriginal women.
3. The federal government collaborate with the Native Women's Association of Canada to explore the feasibility of i) sharing some or all of the information in the data base with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Support Centre for Missing Persons; and ii) deciding what, if any information, can ethically be made available more broadly beyond police and justice system officials.
4. The federal government, through Health Canada and in collaboration with Aboriginal, provincial and territorial organizations, should consider support services in the Inuit and First Nations Health Branch geared towards families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.
5. The federal government, under the aegis of the Family Violence Initiative, should work with the Canadian Police College, Aboriginal women's organizations, and the Department of Public Safety Canada to develop and disseminate training materials with respect to the cultural and historical context in which violence against Aboriginal women occurs.
6. The federal government, under the aegis of the Family Violence Initiative, should work with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Aboriginal women's organizations, Status of Women Canada, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, and the Department of Public Safety Canada to pilot and disseminate results of collaborative approaches at the community level to combat violence against Aboriginal women.
7. The federal government should continue to work with its provincial and territorial partners and stakeholders to determine what more can be done within existing service models to better address the needs of Aboriginal victims of violence.
8. The federal government, in collaboration with national and/or regional Aboriginal groups and territorial governments, should review AANDC's policies within its Family Violence Prevention Program with a view to making Northern communities eligible for funding.
9. If new funding for anti-violence work with Aboriginal women becomes available, that it should include a component for training Aboriginal women so that they can be employed in delivering the service.

http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/parl/XC71-1-411-01-eng.pdf

In response to the interim report, in June 2011, the Government of Canada supported the Government of British Columbia to providing funding to the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to co-host, with the Native Women's Association of Canada, the National Aboriginal Women's Forum, 'Collaboration to End Violence.'

This forum focused on practices that addressed the socio-economic issues faced by Aboriginal women and girls. This disadvantage led to the increase in the experience of violence against Aboriginal women (4).

The interim report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women has been hailed as being significant; it is the first of its kind, to detail and recognise the violence against Aboriginal women and girls; it focuses on the necessity in noting a coordinated approach to the crisis of violence; and that the poverty and racism involved are root causes of this violence. In contrast, the final report is not so significant, and has even been suggested to have been a failure to Aboriginal women. The final report was criticised for ignoring the evidence in the first Interim report and makes little recommendations that can help build strategies in communities and so forth. Amnesty international have been quoted in saying: 'the report represents one more lost opportunity to make progress in meaningfully addressing one of the country's most serious, longstanding human rights cases' (5). Thus, little actually materialised in Parliament.

Media response:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=5069740&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=3>

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=e&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=3&DocId=4903204>

Notes:

(1) ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN AND GIRLS: EMPOWERMENT – A NEW BEGINNING report of the standing committee on the status of women (n.p., 2012), http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/parl/XC71-1-411-01-eng.pdf. P.1

(2) Hon Hedy Fry and M P Chair, HOUSE OF COMMONS CANADA INTERIM REPORT CALL INTO THE NIGHT: AN OVERVIEW OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN Standing Committee on the Status of Women, (n.p., 2011), http://ywcacanada.ca/data/research_docs/00000180.pdf.p.10

(3) ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN AND GIRLS: EMPOWERMENT – A NEW BEGINNING report of the standing committee on the status of women (n.p., 2012), http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/parl/XC71-1-411-01-eng.pdf. P.43

(4) New York, SUBMISSION BY CANADA INTERNATIONAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON " COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS: ARTICLE 22 OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES " UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES , (n.p., 2012), http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/EGM12_Canada_en.pdf. P.4

(5) Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action Disappearances and Murders of Aboriginal Women and Girls in Canada Submission to the, (n.p., 2012), <http://www.fafia-afai.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/3-FAFIA-Report-to-CERD-2012.pdf>. P.18

CASE STUDY 2: *Access to Justice*

Committee Inquiry on Access to Justice, especially for Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups

Terms of reference:

Last year the Government put forward the Access to Justice Amendment Bill proposing various reforms to access to justice, inter alia limiting the provision of legal aid, introduction of fees for employment tribunals, and court closures. The Committee seeks to assess the impact of the reforms to the legal aid system with a view to ensuring access to justice and the provision of free legal aid services, in particular for marginalised individuals and groups.

It is well-established that one of the most important ways to fulfil individuals' human rights is by ensuring that all people have equal access to justice. In order to make that a reality, barriers faced by vulnerable groups must be taken into account and addressed, such as those based on race, gender, disability, and sexual orientation or gender identity. The concept of equality requires more nuance than treating all persons the same way. Equal treatment of persons in unequal situations will perpetuate injustice and true equality can only emerge from efforts that would correct underlying imbalances.

The Committee is inviting written and oral evidence on the particular impact these reforms will have on marginalised groups, such as women, persons with disabilities, migrants, and LGBTI persons. This evidence will provide a foundation for the Committee's first report.

The Committee seeks responses on the following themes:

- The scale, character and impact the reforms will have on vulnerable groups, for example migrants and the LGBTI community;
- The impact of legal aid reforms for judicial review cases;
- The impact the changes have had on the number and quality of practitioners, in all areas of law, who offer services funded by legal aid;
- The Government predicted that there would be substantially fewer cases in the civil courts as a result of its reforms; Which cases will these be and how will the issues they involved be resolved;
- What will happen to vulnerable people who can no longer access advice, representation or the courts;
- Action the Government could be taking on legal aid to mitigate the impact of reforms on the LGBTI and other marginalised communities;
- Measures the Government could take to ensure that the reforms are efficient, fair and non-discriminatory, and respect the dignity and privacy of the person concerned;
- The role that parliamentarians can play in ensuring access to justice for members of marginalised groups;
- The broader role of Government in response to ensuring access to justice for members of marginalised groups;

Report Summary:

The Government's proposals for reforming legal aid are fundamental, extensive and bold. They are intended to significantly reduce the cost of the system at a time when the Ministry of Justice has to reduce its overall spending by almost a quarter. The main way in which the Government is seeking to make those cuts is by taking certain areas of law outside the scope of legal aid, with some areas being removed in their entirety and some remaining partially within scope. This is where we focus most attention in our Report.

We encourage the Government to look at other possible ways of reducing costs, including creating a financial incentive for public bodies such as the Department of Justice to get their decisions right the first time, and so avoid expensive court and tribunal cases. We also think that the Government should reconsider whether legal aid should be available for certain types of judicial review. Also consider means testing people for the provision of certain legal services.

We consider the effect the proposals will have on the providers of legal aid services, including the not-for-profit sector, and we look at the steps the Government is taking to try to alleviate those effects. We examine the Government's case that, where it is removing legal areas from scope, alternative sources of help exist and individuals will be able to represent themselves, because tribunals are user-friendly and the cases concerned are not particularly complex.

There is a degree of consensus amongst all political parties that the cost of legal aid needs to be reduced, but it is imperative that there is a careful assessment of the impact of the changes on members of vulnerable and marginalised groups and those people most dependent on legal aid. We call on the Government to consider undertaking a judicial impact assessment of its reforms, for example, on the operation of courts and tribunals, and for public expenditure more generally.

The Government needs to refine its proposals further before introducing a major change in the way the accessibility of the justice system has come to be viewed. It is crucial that the Government's proposals engage with the specific vulnerabilities of different marginalised groups, including women, refugees and migrants, persons with disabilities, and LGBTI persons in its proposed conceptualisation of access to justice.

In particular, this inquiry has found:

- Marginalised groups, such as women, migrants, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, have a more acute need for access to justice as they are susceptible to discrimination, for example in employment, housing and access to health care, and are often specifically targeted for intimidation, harassment and violence.
- Members of marginalised groups face multiple barriers in access to justice because of, for example, their race, disability, or sexual orientation or gender identity. For instance, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people face obstacles in accessing justice because as women, they are subject to the same barriers as all other women, and as people persecuted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, they are subject to additional barriers that multiply the effects of discrimination.
- While the case for both reforms and ensuring access to justice for all is clear, the responses needed are complex. We need to ensure that the stances taken by the Government are effective, and also that interventions are not counter-productive to the enjoyment of the right to access to justice by the most vulnerable members of society.
- The proposed reforms to access to justice will likely have particular impacts on marginalised groups, such as women, refugees and migrants, persons with disabilities, and LGBTI persons. For example, the introduction of fees for employment tribunals is expected to result in large drops in the numbers of claims brought for discrimination on the basis of sex, disability, race and sexual orientation.
- Those persons subject to laws criminalizing homosexuality and cross-dressing are unable to rely on State mechanisms for redress in even mundane matters, such as landlord-tenant disputes, for fear of their sexuality or gender identity being used against them.

CASE STUDY 3: *Poverty*

Feeding Britain – A strategy for zero hunger in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The UK Parliament's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hunger and Food Poverty, formed in October 2013 and chaired by Frank Field MP, ran an inquiry in April 2014 into the extent and causes of hunger in the United Kingdom. The inquiry received 400 submissions and took oral evidence in Birkenhead, Cornwall, Salisbury and South Shields. The APPG's report has led to an official response and action, gained significant publicity, and has led to the formation of Feeding Britain, a non-governmental organisation which shares the APPG's aim of ending hunger.

The report was funded by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Charitable Trust and the Archbishop himself spoke at the APPG hunger report launch in Westminster.

The inquiry's terms of reference were (1):

1. To understand the extent and geographical spread of hunger and food poverty in this country,
2. To investigate the underlying causes of hunger and food poverty in this country,
3. To identify the circumstances behind the rising number of people requiring emergency food assistance in this country,
4. To understand the extent, nature and organisation of emergency food assistance schemes in this country,
5. To discover the food choices and other forms of support available to clients when using emergency food assistance,
6. To investigate the source of emergency food assistance providers' supplies – how much is supplied by consumers and institutions?
7. To consider the effectiveness of emergency food assistance in meeting immediate and long-term needs, and the possibility of these schemes becoming permanent features of the welfare state,
8. To examine the effectiveness and sustainability of our food model in providing universal access to healthy, affordable food in this country,
9. To consider approaches to improving household food security in this country,
10. To make recommendations.

The full report can be accessed here: [A strategy for zero hunger in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland](#)
The inquiry held a number of regional evidence sessions in towns including Birkenhead, Salisbury, South Yorkshire, Cornwall, South Shields, as well as in London. There were also sessions in the House of Commons (2).

155 witnesses gave oral evidence and there were 246 written submissions. The report mentions the importance of receiving this evidence in defining what individuals and organisations believe to be the most pressing aspects of the issue of hunger (3).

The evidence, in full, can be found here: <https://foodpovertyinquiry.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/food-poverty-appg-evidence-review-final.pdf>

Official response (4):

HM Revenue and Customs has protected households in receipt of tax credits who need to report a change of circumstances, by reforming its administrative processes. The gap between closing an existing claim and setting a new claim in hand has been cut from eight weeks, to eight days.

HM Revenue and Customs has similarly protected households making a new Child Benefit claim, by introducing a new digital mechanism which saves families from having to send original documents, such as their child's birth certificate, when making a new claim. This will eliminate the likelihood of delays occurring.

The **Troubled Families** Programme is accepting direct referrals from schools in cases where children arrive to lessons hungry.

The **Prime Minister** has initiated a review of modern working practices, including the effectiveness of zero-hours contracts.

The **Department for Work and Pensions** is introducing measures to improve the publicity of emergency benefit payments, and to ensure claimants are proactively told about this discretionary support by their Jobcentre Plus adviser.

The **Department for Work and Pensions** is piloting a 'Yellow Card' early warning system for people who risk being sanctioned.

The **Department for Work and Pensions** is fixing the IT system to ensure claimants do not lose their Housing Benefit if they have been sanctioned. The relevant Local Authority will see that it is a 'sanction' rather than 'cessation', and so the Housing Benefit claim remains unaffected.

The **Department for Work and Pensions** is seeking ways of rolling out nationally the Reformed Welfare Contract that has been developed by Feeding Birkenhead.

The **Department for Education** is to use £3.1 million from the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived to provide additional support for school breakfast clubs in England. The funding will be allocated to schools with particularly high rates of disadvantage, as measured by free school meal eligibility, and will be spread between now and 2020. It is subject to final agreement from the European Commission. Under the plans, which will be led by the Department for Education, this money would be allocated to schools with particularly high rates of disadvantage, as measured by free-school meal eligibility.

The then **Department of Energy and Climate Change** agreed to implement a consistent set of rules for all energy suppliers involved with the Warm Home Discount – which requires the major energy suppliers to provide £140 towards energy bills for some households on low incomes – to ensure a greater number of families in poverty are able to apply for and receive help with their energy bills.

In doing so, it extended the Broader Group criteria to allow all families on low incomes – regardless of their work status – with children aged five and under, or disabled children of any age, to apply for help. Around 70,000 additional families are expected to benefit from these reforms.

Subsequent to this the APPG has (5):

- in June 2015 published a progress report on its early work and campaigns. A link to this document, aptly named Feeding Britain: Six Months on can be found here: <https://feedingbritain.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/feeding-britain-six-months-on.pdf>
- in December 2015, released a follow up report that created new recommendations and proposals for ending hunger in the United Kingdom. This report also included an audit of recommendations it made in December 2014. The report is named A route map to ending hunger as we know it in the United Kingdom: Feeding Britain in 2015-16 and can be found here: https://feedingbritain.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/437487_a-route-map-to-ending-hunger-as-we-know-it-in-the-united-kingdom_full.pdf
- in April 2016, published a report on its previous attempts at measuring the amount of people at risk of being hungry and why this was the case. Additionally, the report made further proposals it set out in the December 2015 report. The report is titled Britain's not so hidden hunger and can be found here: https://feedingbritain.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/437488_tso_britains-not-so-hidden-hunger.pdf

This report was the first of its kind in the United Kingdom to assess and consider the reasons behind the recent rise in the use of food banks and the evermore increasing emergency food assistance over the last few years. Following this, the inquiry received large media coverage. A link to the media coverage received can be found here: <https://feeding-britain.org/in-the-media/>

Notes:

(1) Feeding Britain, A Strategy For Zero Hunger In England, Wales, Scotland And Northern Ireland. 2014. 1st ed. The Children's Society. P.3.

(2) Feeding Britain, A Strategy For Zero Hunger In England, Wales, Scotland And Northern Ireland. 2014. 1st ed. The Children's Society. P.3.

(3) Feeding Britain, A Strategy For Zero Hunger In England, Wales, Scotland And Northern Ireland. 2014. 1st ed. The Children's Society. P.8.

(4) "National Reforms". 2017. Feeding Britain. <https://feeding-britain.org/national-reforms/>.

(5) "Feeding Britain". 2017. Feeding Britain. <https://feeding-britain.org/>.

General Information

Travelling to/from UK

Delegates will make their own travel plans to attend the conference in London, UK.

Conference Hotel & Registration

The name and address of the official hotel is **Doubletree by Hilton Westminster London** based in **30 John Islip Street SW1P 4DD London (UK)**.

Registration will be at the **hotel lobby** from 08:00am-08:30am on Tuesday 24 January 2017, where security badges will be handed out to delegates. CPA UK and WFD staff will then escort participants by coach to Marlborough House. Delegates will be escorted through security.

If you are staying at another hotel, please make your way directly to Marlborough House Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HX where you will be greeted by staff, registered for the conference and provided with your pass for the conference.

For those delegates who indicated on their online registration forms that they have mobility issues, special transport can be arranged for them to and from the conference venues.

Conference Venues

On Tuesday 24 January 2017, the Conference will be held at the **Marlborough House, London** based at Pall Mall London, SW1Y 5HX.

On Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 January 2017, the Conference will be held at the **Houses of Parliament, London (UK)**.

The programme will take place in different rooms. Please consult the programme for full details.

Security

Please note for security reasons **participants are expected to wear their passes at all times**. Passes will be provided during registration on the first day of the conference.

In order to enter the Marlborough House and the Houses of Parliament, participating Legal Advisors, Clerks and parliamentary officials will be required to go through an airport-style security check. Please ensure that you do not bring any sharp objects with you on the day as these will be confiscated. Members wearing their security passes will be exempt from search.

If you are not staying at the official hotel, please arrive 20

minutes prior to the start of the programme at the main entrance to allow time to clear security. Staff will be at the entrance to help. Transport will be provided from the official hotel on each morning of the programme and after the last session of the day.

Conference Attendance

Delegates are expected to attend all sessions of the conference programme.

Presentations

Presentations from all sessions will be made available after the conference on the CPA UK website in the delegate sign-in area under the "Post-Conference Materials" section.

Translation

The official language of the conference will be English. There will be Arabic translation provided.

Photography

There will be an official photographer present during the conference and there will be a group photograph. Photographs will be made available after the seminar via the CPA UK website.

Twitter

CPA UK will be tweeting about the seminar using @CPA_UK. We encourage delegates to join us. The official hashtag is **#humanrights2017**

Please also use the following for:

WFD Twitter: @WFD_Democracy

CHRI Twitter: CHRI_INT

JCHR: @HumanrightsCtte

COMSEC: @commonwealthsec

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones should be switched off. Any mobile phone conversations, as well as extended conversations with fellow delegates, should take place outside the conference.

Smoking

The conference is a strictly non-smoking area. Delegates who would like to smoke will be required to do so outside.

Internet Access

WiFi internet is available in the hotel and across the Marlborough House and the Houses of Parliament. Access information will be provided on arrival.

Weather

According to the latest weather forecast, temperatures are expected to average 10 degrees. There is a fair chance of rain in January and so umbrellas are advised as a precaution.

Delegates should ensure that they dress accordingly. Layered clothing is recommended.

Dress

Delegates should wear business dress throughout the conference.

Currency

The official currency is the Pound Sterling (£).

Exchange rates can be found at the following websites:

www.xe.com

www.oanda.com

Currency can also be changed at all international airports, although a commission will be charged. ATMs are in abundance across London, with both Visa and MasterCard being widely accepted.

Insurance

Delegates have been advised to obtain valid travel and health insurance for travel to London, covering the entire period of the conference.

Emergency

In the event of a problem during the conference, please speak to a member of staff. In the event of a serious emergency, dial 999 or the police, fire and ambulance services respectively.

Conference Team

Andrew Tuggey DL
Chief Executive & Secretary



CONFERENCES & PROJECTS TEAM

Anne Hodkinson
Head of Conferences & Projects,



Matthew Salik
*Deputy Head of Conferences
 & Projects*



Victoria Bower
*Deputy Head of Conferences
 & Projects*



Helen Gardner
*Projects & Programmes
 Manager*



Adeline Dumoulin
*Projects & Programmes
 Manager*



Paweł Jarzembowski
Project Officer



Tom Burke
Conference Assistant



Morgan Flynn
Conference Assistant



Jessica Fairbairn
Project Assistant



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE RULE OF LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT TEAM

Anne Hodkinson
Head of Conferences & Projects,



Adeline Dumoulin
*Projects & Programmes
 Manager*



Tom Burke
Conference Assistant



Morgan Flynn
Conference Assistant



About the Organisers

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, UK Branch (CPA UK)

CPA UK is one of the largest and most active branches in the CPA community, and delivers a full programme of international parliamentary activities in Westminster and overseas. Governed by an Executive Committee of parliamentarians from all main parties, CPA UK's work includes parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentary strengthening on behalf of the UK Parliament and the wider CPA.

Its activities include conferences, seminars, workshops and interparliamentary exchanges on parliamentary practice and procedure, policy and issues of international interest and concern.

Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR)

The UK's Joint Committee on Human Rights consists of twelve members, appointed from both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, to examine matters relating to human rights within the United Kingdom. However, this excludes consideration of individual cases.

The committee's work includes scrutinising every Government Bill for its compatibility with human rights. These rights include rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) protected in UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998; Common law fundamental rights and liberties and the human rights contained in other international obligations of the UK. The JCHR's scrutiny of Bills also includes consideration of whether the Bill presents an opportunity to enhance human rights in the UK.

The committee also scrutinises the Government's response to court judgments concerning human rights, and the UK's compliance with its human rights obligations contained in a range of international treaties. The committee will also conduct thematic inquiries, where the committee chooses its own subjects of inquiry and seeks evidence from a wide range of groups and individuals with relevant experience and interest. Upcoming inquiries include 'The Government's proposed derogation from the ECHR' and 'The Human Rights Implications of Brexit'.

The Committee are also required to report to Parliament on any remedial order made under the Human Rights Act 1998. A remedial order is a form of delegated legislation. Remedial Orders seek to correct breaches of human rights, identified by either domestic courts or the European Court of Human Rights, between UK law and the ECHR.

Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC)

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 52 independent and equal sovereign states. It is home to approximately 2.4 billion citizens, of which over 60% are under the age of 30. The Commonwealth includes some of the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries, spanning five regions. Thirty-one of its members are small states, many of them island nations.

Vision

To help create and sustain a Commonwealth that is mutually respectful, resilient, peaceful and prosperous and that cherishes equality, diversity and shared values.

Mission

To support member governments, and partner with the broader Commonwealth family and others, to improve the well-being of all Commonwealth citizens and to advance their shared interests globally.

The Commonwealth Secretariat

The Commonwealth Secretariat provides guidance on policy making, technical assistance and advisory services to Commonwealth member countries. We support governments to help achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable development.

The Secretariat's work promotes democracy, rule of law, human rights, good governance and social and economic development. It is a voice for small states and a champion for youth empowerment.

The Commonwealth Secretariat's structure is split into three areas: political, corporate and economic and social development. We work in divisions, units and sections to achieve mandates set by Heads of Government.

Commonwealth Secretary-General's Priorities

Since taking office on 1 April 2016, Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, has been focused on helping Commonwealth countries to achieve the recently ratified United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, work towards the delivery of COP 21 and to uphold The Commonwealth Charter.

She has identified the following priorities: tackling the existential threat of climate change; promoting trade, good governance and human rights; ending violence against women and girls and promoting gender equality; and providing new opportunities for Commonwealth young people and enabling the next generation to achieve their full potential.

For more information, please contact the Commonwealth Secretariat <http://thecommonwealth.org/>

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

CHRI's London office is uniquely positioned to influence human rights outcomes in the Commonwealth. Our presence in London allows us to be at the heart of Commonwealth activity, particularly in the lead-up to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which will be hosted in London in Spring 2018. It is fundamental that human rights is a core concern at this CHOGM, and CHRI is the organisation best placed to achieve this. CHOGM 2018 will also see the UK designated as the Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth for a period of approximately two years, creating a unique moment when both the Chair-in-Office and the official Commonwealth bodies are both in the same location. In addition, the recent appointment of Patricia Scotland, a former UK attorney general and member of the British House of Lords, further reinforces the importance of London as a hub of advocacy of the Commonwealth.

CHRI London works through targeted engagement with the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth institutions and organisations, as well as member states through their diplomatic missions in London. CHRI London is therefore ideally positioned to advocate on priority issues with Commonwealth decision-makers and opinion formers, increasing reach and influence of our organisation as a whole. Our strategy for the period 2016-2020 focuses on holding the Commonwealth to account on human rights commitments; amplifying the work of CHRI through Commonwealth liaison; and strengthening the Commonwealth for human rights.

These priorities build upon the strong record of CHRI London in holding states to account and campaigning for improved standards. This is a record we have built since our activism during the Nigerian dictatorships of the 1990s, and recently we have been particularly influential in relation to post-conflict Sri Lanka as well as leading advocacy for Commonwealth action on the deteriorating situation in the Maldives, which was key to the Maldives inclusion on the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Agenda. At the last CHOHM, in Malta, in 2015 our focus was addressing the closing space for civil society to operate. CHRI's London office led research for CHRI's report for the Meeting: Civil Society and the Commonwealth: Reaching for Partnership; organised a successful report launch event at the Canadian High Commission in London; and presented recommendations to all 53 Commonwealth member states at Commonwealth headquarters, Marlborough House in London. CHRI London has also delivered a series of public events on contemporary human rights themes relevant to the Commonwealth.

In addition to advocacy, research, and events in London, CHRI London adds significant value to the broader work of CHRI by:

- Building strong networks and contacts in order to identify advocacy opportunities within the Commonwealth system
- Working with other Commonwealth organisations to reform Commonwealth institutions and practices and increase civil society access
- Advocating for a Commonwealth Human Rights Commissioner
- Advising and supporting other organisations to access the Commonwealth for human rights
- Ensuring the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Commonwealth Journalists Association are informed of human rights challenges and opportunities

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

Westminster Foundation for Democracy is the UK's leading democracy-strengthening organisation. It brings together parliamentary and political party expertise to help developing countries and countries transitioning to democracy.

WFD's programmes aim to support parliaments that are strengthening their effectiveness in carrying out their main responsibilities - representing their citizens, scrutinising the executive, and debating and adopting legislation. WFD has programmes working at both national and sub-national level and in countries at different stages of democratic development. WFD collaborates with parliamentarians and parliamentary staff in Westminster as well as in the devolved legislatures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. As well as sharing the diverse range of British parliamentary experience, WFD is a strong believer in building peer networks among partner countries. Participants in these networks can share their current experiences of addressing the challenges of building democracy in developing countries and within regions.

WFD works with the British political parties to provide tailored support to a range of parties in all regions of the world. Political party development takes a range of forms, including working through sister parties that are linked through international networks, party-to-party support independent of ideological affiliation, multi-party programmes to address more generic capacity issues, and regional networks to build common agendas and collaboration.



CPA UK Modern Slavery Project

The **Modern Slavery Project** is a two year multilateral project providing practical advice and support to Commonwealth legislatures in the pursuit of combating modern slavery. The project aims to encourage and facilitate a greater understanding of the national and international benefits of introducing modern slavery legislation through highlighting the value and subsequent lessons learnt from the passing of the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Modern slavery is a global phenomenon with The Walk Free Foundation's Global Slavery Index 2016 estimating there are 45.8 million people living in modern slavery worldwide. The International Labour Organisation estimates that the global modern slavery trade is worth \$150 billion USD.

The project will be led by Commonwealth parliamentarians and senior officials, sharing good practice to support colleagues in harnessing their heightened understanding to develop and strengthen modern slavery legislation across their jurisdictions.

CPA UK proposes to work closely with six Commonwealth countries, each partnership unique in its goals and objectives, whilst also supporting partnerships across the CPA regions to share good practice in tackling this heinous crime. During the first year of the Modern Slavery Project CPA UK will deliver two regional workshops - one to be held in Africa and one to be held in the Asia-Pacific region.

45.8 MILLION PEOPLE
LIVE IN MODERN SLAVERY

The Global Slavery Index 2016

To learn more about the project contact or follow us here:

www.uk-cpa.org/special-projects/modern-slavery-project/

modernslaveryproject@parliament.uk

#ModernSlavery

In partnership with:



HM Government

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ABOUT CPA UK

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