



**ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY**

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**BECOME A FRIEND**

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*"For more than a century and a half, the Royal Commonwealth Society has worked tirelessly to promote both the value, and the values, of the Commonwealth. It has championed, and continues to champion, human rights, democracy, and sustainable development across 54 member states."*

Her Majesty The Queen, Vice-Patron of the Royal Commonwealth Society speaking on her appointment as inaugural Vice-Patron in 2018.

## ABOUT THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

Founded in 1868, the Royal Commonwealth Society is the oldest charity dedicated to the Commonwealth, is non-partisan, independent of governments and relies on public generosity to achieve its mission. We are honoured to have His Majesty The King as our Patron, and Her Majesty The Queen as our Vice-Patron.

Our unique position within the Commonwealth family allows us to play a pivotal role in convening and connecting the Commonwealth's political and diplomatic representatives, civil society, business and youth leaders, on a wide range of issues as well as to deliver highlights of the Commonwealth calendar such as the annual Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey and the High Commissioners' Banquet at Guildhall.

Through youth empowerment, education and high-level advocacy, the Society champions the importance of connected communities, literacy, equality, and the environment across the Commonwealth's 56 member states.

Occupying a central role in this voluntary network of nations, we believe that by connecting, convening and equipping people to advance the values of the Commonwealth, values that include democracy, the rule of law, human rights, equality, respect and understanding and environmental protection, we can achieve a better world.

## FRIENDS OF THE SOCIETY

We invite you to become an inaugural Friend of the Royal Commonwealth Society to help us to continue to improve lives and prospects across the Commonwealth.

Your support in these uncertain and financially challenging times will enable us to continue to increase children's literacy through The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, protect oceans through the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Plastic Campaign, promote equality and inclusion through the Commonwealth Youth Gender and Equality Network and deliver highlights of the Commonwealth calendar.

As a Friend of the Society, you will be committing to supporting our important work through monthly donations of £300.00, for a period of three years.

In appreciation of your generous support, you will be invited to the following annual occasions for the duration of your time as a Friend:

- The Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey (includes a guest ticket).
- A 'Friends only' diplomatic networking event.
- An exclusive 'Friends only' special occasion (includes a guest ticket).
- The High Commissioners' Banquet at Mansion House or Guildhall.

## THE COMMONWEALTH DAY SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The world's premier, public event to celebrate the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Day Service takes place each Commonwealth Day (second Monday of March) in the presence of Their Majesties the King and Queen, Senior Members of the Royal Family, and UK and Commonwealth political and diplomatic representatives. Includes a guest ticket.





## TWO EXCLUSIVE 'FRIENDS ONLY' EVENTS

Held during the Summer, our 'Friends only' exclusive events will showcase the Society's well-regarded convening role within the Commonwealth.

A diplomatic networking event will provide an opportunity for Friends to network with each other, Commonwealth diplomatic representatives, and other key stakeholders of the Society. We are also delighted to invite Friends and their guests to a special access tour in a unique venue.



## THE HIGH COMMISSIONERS' BANQUET AT MANSION HOUSE OR GUILDHALL

Held in partnership with the City of London Corporation, the High Commissioners' Banquet is an annual opportunity to bring together the Commonwealth's London-based diplomatic representatives, and UK and Commonwealth thought and business leaders in the splendour of the City's Guildhall or the Lord Mayor's Mansion House for a black-tie reception and dinner.



## BECOME A FRIEND

As a charity that relies on public generosity from individuals and organisations that share our vision of a better world, we hope that you will become a Friend of the Society and support our efforts to improve the lives of citizens across the Commonwealth.

Your donation can be made either monthly (£300), annually (£3,600), or in a one-off payment (£10,800) for your three-year period of support.

To become a Friend of the Society, please visit our website [www.royalcwsociety.org](http://www.royalcwsociety.org) or contact our Chief Operating Officer Elizabeth van der Valk by telephone (+44 (0)20 3727 4300) or email ([elizabeth.vandervalk@royalcwsociety.org](mailto:elizabeth.vandervalk@royalcwsociety.org)).



*HM The Queen with children at the launch of The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2020 in Christchurch, New Zealand.*





*Image: His Majesty The King, Patron of the Royal Commonwealth Society, delivers his Commonwealth Day Message at the Commonwealth Day Service 2023.*

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