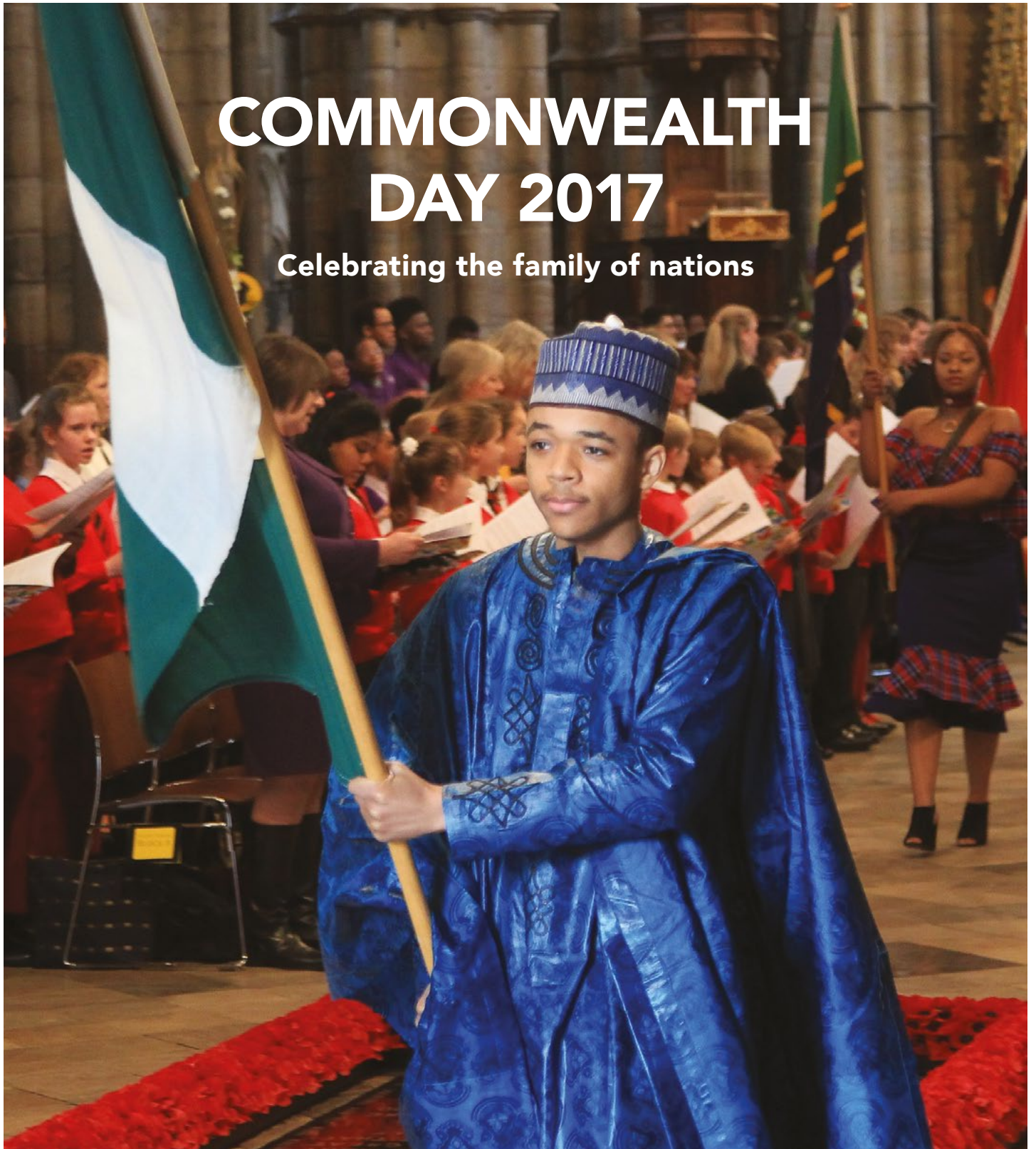



VOICES

COMMONWEALTH DAY 2017

Celebrating the family of nations



 **A PEACE-BUILDING
COMMONWEALTH**
Thoughts on the 2017 theme

 **MODERN DAY SLAVERY**
Collaboration is key to
combatting modern slavery

 **CAPITALISING ON THE
COMMONWEALTH**
The latest research from the RCS



An event space for the Commonwealth family

Prime pop-up space for Events & Networking
Standing reception for up to 60 invited guests
Free of charge to Commonwealth organisations and High Commissions

Commonwealth House

In June 2016, Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth's Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, launched a new concept of Commonwealth co-operation, inviting three organisations, The Royal Commonwealth Society, Commonwealth Games Federation and Commonwealth Local Government Forum to move into the Secretariat offices opposite Marlborough House. The building is now called Commonwealth House.

Contact: Emma Kerr on +44 (0)20 7747 6111 Email: e.kerr@commonwealth.int
Address: Commonwealth House, 55-58 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JH



The Commonwealth



clgf



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

WELCOME



I am delighted to welcome readers to this April issue, published just after last month's Commonwealth week celebrations. The vivid and colourful Commonwealth national flags, flying on Parliament Square in Westminster, are always a striking reminder of our shared bonds of friendship and family.

Once again, the 52 flags were carried with pride through Westminster Abbey at the start of the week's festivities. This year's theme of 'A Peace-building Commonwealth' gave added significance; consideration of the theme and the actions it will promote from Commonwealth organisations are included within. Meanwhile, the official 2018 Commonwealth Games countdown to the Gold Coast started in style with The Queen's Baton Relay. Details about next year's Commonwealth Summit in the UK were also announced, with Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle confirmed as venues.

The Society, in partnership with the City of London Corporation also organised the annual High Commissioners' Banquet at the Guildhall with Maltese Prime Minister, Dr Joseph Muscat and the Premier of Queensland, Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, in attendance.

To coincide with the inaugural Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Meeting we released the findings from our commissioned polling on British businesses' Commonwealth trade priorities, post-Brexit, with the support of former UK Trade Minister, Lord Digby Jones.

Last year saw the RCS organise two Model Commonwealth Summits in South Wales and Bath. These events are a great way to showcase the Commonwealth to young people, bringing the network and its processes to life. We are continuing to develop the programme in 2017 with a view to organising events across the UK and abroad.

Altogether, we are very much looking forward to the next twelve months for the Commonwealth.

Tim Hewish
Director of Policy and Research



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

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KEEP IN THE CONVERSATION

- www.thercs.org
- [/thercs](https://www.facebook.com/thercs)
- [@TheRCSLondon](https://twitter.com/TheRCSLondon)
- [/TheRCSociety](https://www.youtube.com/TheRCSociety)

COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT 2018

On Commonwealth Day, 13 March 2017, UK Prime Minister, **The Rt Honourable Theresa May MP**, announced that the 2018 Commonwealth Summit would set out the future for a vibrant and diverse Commonwealth.



Formerly known as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), the Summit will take place during the week of 16 April 2018 in London and Windsor. For the first time, Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle will be among the summit venues and leaders of the 52 member countries are expected to attend.

The Prime Minister and Cabinet will oversee preparations to ensure the Commonwealth Summit is a truly cross-government effort, including through a new dedicated Inter-Ministerial Group co-chaired by the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

A central team has also been established in the Cabinet Office to deliver the summit, working closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat and member states. The dedicated unit will report directly to the Prime Minister, who has appointed Tim Hitchens as its CEO. Tim Hitchens was previously British Ambassador to Japan, and has served as Africa Director and Europe Director in the Foreign Office, and also as Assistant Private Secretary to The Queen.

Speaking on Commonwealth Day, the Prime Minister said: "As we prepare to host the Commonwealth Summit in London next April, we are reminded today of the unique and proud global relationships that we have forged with the diverse and vibrant alliance of Commonwealth nations.

"The UK has a longstanding and firm

commitment to the Commonwealth and to the values it upholds, of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

"And in hosting the Commonwealth Summit next year, the UK is committed to working with all members not only to reaffirm these shared values, but also to re-energise and revitalise the Commonwealth to cement its relevance to this and future generations.

"As we look to create a truly global Britain, the deep partnerships that we share through a 21st century Commonwealth can help us strengthen the prosperity and security of our own citizens and those of our many friends and allies across the world."

The Prime Minister went on to meet Prime Minister Muscat of Malta, the current Commonwealth Chair, to discuss a shared commitment to the Commonwealth and preparations for next year's summit, which will see the UK take over as Chair of the Commonwealth until 2020.

Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland said: "The wonderful thing about the Commonwealth is that we are a family of 52 nations spreading across six regions," she said. "What motivates us as a family, and what has guided us, are the shared aims of good governance, sustainable growth, and inclusive social and economic development, aided by our common language, common laws, common parliamentary and other institutions, as well as our cultural ties."

The Prime Minister, Prime Minister Muscat and the Commonwealth Secretary-General all later attended the annual Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen.

 **MORE INFORMATION**
bit.ly/CWSummit2018

QUEENSLAND AWAITS THE WORLD

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland, addresses an audience of High Commissioners, partners and city notables at a banquet organised by the RCS, hosted at the Guildhall, London, on 14 March.



“This week marks an important milestone for Queensland in our journey towards the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. In April next year, just over 55 weeks away, more than 6,600 athletes and team officials from 70 nations and territories will gather in Queensland for the 11 days of the Games. The Games will feature world class sporting competition viewed by 1.5 million spectators and a global television audience of 1.5 billion people.

Yesterday we witnessed The Queen’s Baton depart Buckingham Palace on the 388 day journey, travelling two hundred and thirty thousand kilometres across the Commonwealth to the Gold Coast for the opening ceremony, on April the 4th 2018. And didn’t we have some lovely Queensland weather in London yesterday – we have that every day of the year! We’re very privileged that, at the start of that journey, the Baton has found time in its hectic schedule to join us here tonight. Over the next year will eagerly build towards what will be the largest multi-sport event being hosted in Australia this decade. The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games is undoubtedly a great moment for sport, it is also an unparalleled opportunity to showcase Queensland’s appeal as a unique trade, investment and tourism destination. As Premier of Queensland I’m committed to driving economic opportunities for the State; our investment in the Commonwealth Games is an investment in the future. As the Baton travels through every nation and territory of the Commonwealth, a series of events

will be held in priority markets. These activities will promote Queensland, identify and engage priority trade and investment partners in the lead up to the Games.

After the Games, the area around the Athlete’s Village will be converted into a world-class health and knowledge precinct, presenting opportunities for investors. This precinct will create opportunities to grow research and development, commercialise future health and medical technologies, attract skilled workers and diversify the local economy. We are building an environment where collaboration between industry and research bodies successfully translates ideas and research into commercial outcomes, new and growing business and jobs.

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games is about more than Queensland and more than sport, it is a unique opportunity for nations to build stronger trade and investment ties. This is particularly relevant in the current global climate. In that environment of disruption, and what I term discontent, there is reassurance in being able to turn to the certainty and endurance of the steadfast friendship that is the Commonwealth. Perhaps more than ever, this alliance today presents a unique proposition to reposition and renew relationships, to bring economic benefit to our countries for generations to come.

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will deliver eleven unforgettable days of world class sporting competition; it will strengthen our ties across all Commonwealth nations and territories. Australia, Queensland and the Gold Coast are ready to welcome the world and we can’t wait for you to join us.”



MORE INFORMATION
www.gc2018.com

A PEACE-BUILDING COMMONWEALTH

The annual theme provides a focus for Commonwealth Day celebrations planned by Commonwealth governments, organisations, charities and schools and for activities throughout the year.

We invited individuals from the RCS network, each of whom is working in an area relevant to peace-building, to reflect on their interpretation of the theme and to highlight their priorities for action to achieve a peace-building Commonwealth.



Dr Samir Puri

Advisor in the Commonwealth CVE Unit. Dr Puri lectures in War Studies at King's College London on issues including terrorism and home grown radicalisation

Countering violent extremism is one of the prescient issues of our time. It is a transnational issue and, just as the violent extremists are adept at exploiting their own cross-border networks to recruit and to use violence, those dedicated to countering this phenomenon must be just as adept. As a 'network of networks', the Commonwealth is uniquely placed to assist the governments of vulnerable Commonwealth Members in, for example, sharing best practices, and harnessing the role of civil society and women, to enhance the resilience of society to violent extremist messages.

In the year that the Commonwealth's

theme is a 'A Peace-building Commonwealth', the Commonwealth Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Unit has been set up to create a dedicated facility to advance the Commonwealth's role in international efforts to counter violent extremism, in line with the mandate given by Heads of Government at CHOGM 2015. The CVE Unit is based in the Secretariat, and intends to leverage many of the existing competencies of the Commonwealth. In particular, the Commonwealth's civil society and education networks, and its unique convening power across its Member Countries, which span every region of the globe, have great potential to broaden international CVE efforts.



Cecilia Oluwafisayo Aransiola

Chevening Scholar and Associate Fellow of The Royal Commonwealth Society

When I reflect on peace, I often ponder the grave sufferings of children in conflict zones; the brutal killing, abduction, sexual abuse, maiming and displacement of millions of children. The Buni Yadi massacre in which students were gruesomely murdered by Boko Haram, the tragic Chibok girls' abduction for over a thousand days, horrendous Peshawar school attack in Pakistan, Garissa University attack in Kenya, gang violence in the Caribbean, child soldiers forced to fight wars, witness atrocious acts of violence, bear the catastrophic loss of loved ones and robbed of their childhood. Indeed, these horrific impacts of conflict on children, remain a scar on the conscience of the world.

For me, a peace-building Commonwealth is a sustainable, peaceful and just Commonwealth where children can develop to their full potential in a non-violent society. Their plight demands of us to strengthen our commitment to tackle the drivers of violence, such as poverty and inequality, to promote pluralism, dialogue and inclusion, and to build community resilience and other impactful approaches to counter violent extremism. Children are the lifeline of our Commonwealth and they have a fundamental right to peace. We owe them a sustainable culture of peace, not only in the Commonwealth, but the world at large.



Jonathan Cohen

Executive Director of Conciliation Resources, an independent NGO working with people in conflict to prevent violence, resolve conflicts and promote peaceful societies

In our turbulent age, peace-building is essential in preventing and transforming violent conflict. Lasting peace comes not through military engagement and building the security apparatus, but through political solutions. It is not easy, nor is it a soft option. Armed conflict has impacted many Commonwealth states and violence persists in different guises. Dealing with this legacy, which continues to impede development, exacerbate poverty, violate human rights and undermine justice, requires persistence and courage.

Founded on the values of respect, tolerance and diversity, the Commonwealth can ensure that the security all its citizens crave is achieved through the development of

sustainable solutions to address conflicts. Peace-building is not the preserve of elites. Instead, those most affected by violence must be included in the processes of building peace. Pioneers of peace often come from communities experiencing violence and such people, and their organisations, should be recognised and supported.

The increasing uncertainty that pervades the international arena must not be an excuse for states and societies to retreat into exclusionary attitudes that all too often stoke confrontation. A peace-building Commonwealth must acknowledge that peace is only built when we see that the wellbeing and security of others is as important as that of our own.



Gulalai Ismail

Chair of the NGO Aware Girls. Gulalai Ismail is also the 2016 Laureate of the Chirac Foundation's Conflict Prevention Award and the recipient of the Commonwealth Youth Award 2015

When I hear the words 'A Peace-building Commonwealth', I don't think of governments, states and policies. I think of the 2 billion young people living in Commonwealth countries and their potential to be the torch bearers of peace, because today's Commonwealth is a young Commonwealth.

Today, the world is faced with the challenges of war, terrorism and radicalisation. There seems to be uncertainty and fear which is converting into hatred, there seems to be darkness – too much of it, but when I look at the young people of Commonwealth countries, I see hope – loads of it. I see hope in the form of young people who are striving for a better and peaceful world. From the Youth Peace Network of Aware Girls in Pakistan to the African Youth Initiative Network in Uganda, young people of the Commonwealth are setting

examples as the peace-builders in their communities. Today, while the world is facing the challenges of violent extremism and radicalisation, I think there is a lot to learn from some of the Commonwealth countries on how to build local, non-violent, indigenous movements, how to counter radicalisation, how to prevent youth recruitment into militant organisations and how to sustain locally-led initiatives for peace-building.

As a peace activist working with more than 5,000 young people every year, I have learnt that to become a peace-building Commonwealth, to become a peace-building world, we have to recognise our young people as partners in peace-building processes. Seeing young people as part of the problem and not as part of the solution is the problem!



MORE INFORMATION

- www.thercs.org/our-work/commonwealth-theme-2017
- www.thecommonwealth.org/media/news/peace-building-commonwealth-our-theme-2017

MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Instrumental in the establishment of the 2015 Modern Slavery Act, **Lord Ian McColl** highlights how collaboration strengthens the work being undertaken to combat modern slavery.

Slavery as a Modern Reality

As a doctor and a surgeon, I found that the best way to diagnose what was wrong with a patient was simply to listen. I also found that through listening I would uncover more about a patient than just the outward symptoms they were suffering from. I would learn of their home life, their work situation and sometimes hidden abuse they may be subject to. Years later, as a member of the House of Lords, I and others listened to many stories of victims of slavery here in the UK. As we did so, we began to see more of what was happening beneath the surface of our society.

We heard about victims like Mary from Nigeria, who, after her mother's death, was promised a better life in England. A man organised her plane ticket and hours after her arrival in the UK, Mary was taken to a house that turned out to be a brothel. She was then forced, through threats of violence, to have sex with men who paid money to her trafficker. Before

Mary even realised she had been deceived, she was trapped.

We usually associate slavery with the 18th Century and indeed its abolition with the anti-slavery movement, championed by William Wilberforce and the Clapham Sect. But those working to raise awareness around slavery are keen to point out that, far from being a thing of the past, slavery is as widespread as ever. Mary's story isn't unique. In fact there are five times as many victims of slavery today than during the time of Wilberforce. At a recent forum in Istanbul, Archbishop Justin Welby pressed this point, urging that slavery "must not be relegated to a footnote in history. It is a living reality in all our communities."

The Role of the Commonwealth

The Walk Free Foundation's recent study into modern slavery revealed that – of the estimated 45.8 million victims worldwide – around 55% are to be found within the Commonwealth. As laid out in its Charter, the Commonwealth is committed to upholding human rights, the rule of law and equality. Slavery, therefore, is an issue that cuts right to the core of the Commonwealth, challenging its fundamental principles and urging it to act.

While modern slavery presents a significant challenge to the Commonwealth, it also presents a remarkable opportunity. Mary, who eventually escaped her captors after becoming pregnant, reminds us that slavery transcends borders. She also reminds us that – unlike in Wilberforce's time – slavery is not a visible commodified trade where people are bought and sold freely, but it is done behind closed doors, often right under

our noses. Our efforts to combat modern slavery, therefore, require international co-operation as well as innovative approaches that draw on different disciplines, experience and expertise.

The Commonwealth, with established networks, relationships and shared understanding provides a unique platform from which significant steps can be made in combatting modern slavery. It is also an issue that the Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty The Queen, is particularly keen to see the Commonwealth family of 52 nations engage with.

“

Slavery, therefore, is an issue that cuts right to the core of the Commonwealth, challenging its fundamental principles and urging it to act.”

The Modern Slavery Project

Seeking to work with the Commonwealth in its efforts to combat slavery, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) at Westminster has initiated a two-year project led by parliamentarians that will provide advice and support to legislatures. The project will draw on expertise and lessons learnt from the establishment of the Modern Slavery Act in 2015.

The strength of the Modern Slavery Act here in the UK was that it brought together a number of actors. I along with colleagues within the House of Lords drafted a Private Member's Bill based on an EU directive and the research of organisations such as the Centre for Social Justice and CARE. Individual parliamentarians such as Baroness Butler-Sloss and Fiona Mactaggart, and former MP Anthony Steen, championed the cause. It took Theresa May, then at the Home Office, to pick it up and run with it, commissioning an Evidence Review chaired by Frank Field MP who played an important role in encouraging the recommendations to pass in to law.

In the same way, CPA UK through its Modern Slavery Project aims to build collaboration: garnering expertise, activism and political clout. The multilateral project

will support Commonwealth legislatures in the pursuit of combatting modern slavery through the sharing of best practice, bringing together experts and NGOs working in the field, and organising regional workshops for the exchange of ideas.

Modern slavery is a scourge and a complex set of issues. There is no one-size-fits-all approach that will solve it. However, through collaboration and learning from one another's experiences, real progress can be made in identifying the specific needs and possible solutions to eradicate this heinous crime.



MORE INFORMATION

- www.uk-cpa.org
- www.walkfreefoundation.org

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Lord Ian McColl of Dulwich is a surgeon, professor and politician. He was made a life peer in the House of Lords in 1989 due in particular to his work with disabled people. Inside the House, he has been Parliamentary Private Secretary to John Major and Shadow Minister for Health. Outside parliament, McColl has been heavily involved with Mercy Ships, an international charity providing free healthcare, and is a Fellow of King's College London where he has lectured for several years on Medicine. For more than a decade, McColl has campaigned on issues relating to child exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, and was also instrumental in the establishment of the Modern Slavery Act in 2015, drafting the original Private Members Bill.

THE COMMONWEALTH SERVICE

Commonwealth Day 2017 in London began with the Commemoration at the Memorial Gates; a service of remembrance of the five million men and women who volunteered to serve in the first and second world wars. It was followed by the launch of the Baton relay from Buckingham Palace and the Commonwealth Service in Westminster Abbey.



The Commonwealth Service was attended by Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth for 65 years, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Henry of Wales, The Duke of York and The Earl of Wessex. They were joined in celebration by the UK Prime Minister, Theresa May, the Commonwealth Chair-in-Office, Dr Joseph Muscat, visiting Trade and Foreign Ministers, High Commissioners, Ambassadors, representatives of the faith and sporting communities, as well as 800 school children and young people.

Outside the Abbey, marking the UK-India Year of Culture, the Bhavan, the largest centre for Indian arts and culture outside India, performed. Their arrangement of Bharatanatyam dance and Indian classical music celebrated the diversity much valued by the Commonwealth, creating a stimulating and celebratory atmosphere for the arrival of the guests.

The Service, broadcast for the second year, live on BBC One, began with the arrival of Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill DBE carrying The Queen's Baton – the second stop on its Commonwealth tour. Upon entering the Abbey, Jessica was joined by Fadumo Olow, a young British athlete and former member of the UK Young Ambassador Steering Group at the Youth Sport Trust; together they processed through the Nave to 'What a Wonderful World' sung by popular musician, Cody Simpson. Upon reaching the Sacrament steps the Baton was passed to the Very Reverend Dr John Hall and placed upon the High Altar for the duration of the Service, projecting a powerful symbol of unity.





Dr Joseph Muscat delivered the principal reflection drawing upon the Commonwealth theme for 2017, 'A Peace-building Commonwealth', stating that at 'a time when we may be tempted to despair and to give up, it is imperative that we remember that peace and reconciliation are objectively possible. They can be achieved.' Achaleke Christian Leke, Commonwealth Young Person of the Year 2016, built upon this with his message to the young people of the Commonwealth emphasising the need for all to work collectively to make peace a reality (p.10).

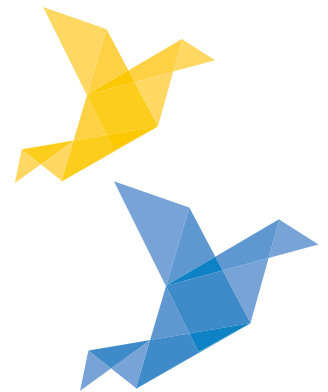
The Service provided an opportunity to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation with a capella medley of 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' and 'We Shall Overcome', sung by Canadian soprano, Measha Brueggergosman. Other performers included Courtney Cleary, a young Australian violinist from the Royal Academy of Music, who delivered a thoughtful recital of Bach's Violin Sonata III next to the Tomb of the Unknown

Warrior, creating a moment of reflection for all those that had given their lives in service to the Commonwealth and the pursuit of peace. Dr Immanuel Mifsud, a Maltese poet read 'The Book', a poem written especially for the Service, and George the Poet, social commentator and spoken word artist, performed 'My Love is Your Love'. Kurt Fearnley OAM, Paralympian, delivered the Bible reading.

The Service drew to a close with the Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland QC, leading guests in 'The Act of Affirmation to the Commonwealth', reaffirming belief in the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world, now and for the future.

MORE INFORMATION

- The Service is available to watch on **BBC iPlayer** until 12th April.
- www.thercs.org/our-work/commonwealth-day-2017 includes HM The Queen's Commonwealth Day Message, information about the speakers and performers and video interviews from the day.
- www.westminster-abbey.org



A REFLECTION BY ACHALEKE CHRISTIAN LEKE FROM WESTMINSTER ABBEY

"Peace building is very personal to me. I have been a victim of violence and radicalisation. Growing up as a kid in Fiango Kumba, a community in Cameroon, which was plagued by real violence, insecurity and feared by many, I told myself that my future would never be shaped by these atrocities.

My journey for peace began by volunteering for Local Youth Corner Cameroon, a youth-led civil society organization. Since then I have become an ambassador of change, a peace hero that is determined to risk his life for peace if that is what it takes. I believe that, peace is not the absence of war, but a jewel that we need to nurture from our hearts.

Diversity is in the DNA of the Commonwealth. Peace runs in its veins. Despite our religion, culture, age, colour, class or gender, there are many of us risking our lives to build peace and make a change. Looking up to inspiring peace builders that went before us, like; Gandhi, Mandela, Princess Diana and Bob Marley, we young people remain inspired and will stand strong against any form of violence.

Peace building is a collective process. It takes each of us, and it takes the tools we have at our disposal. Using our voice, sports, arts, storytelling and music, we can promote peace.

Investing in young people and ensuring the role for our youth is just as important. To achieve peace, we must educate our peers to understand that despite our race, religion or culture, we are equal. Be you a man or woman, young or old, poor or rich, we are all equal. We are one people. Together, let us stand for love, tolerance, justice and peace.



Today, I am using my experience to provide innovative solutions to violence, using my transformation to connect and transform other young people. My team and I work with youths on the streets, correction centres, prisons schools, and communities; building their skills, and self-esteem, opening their eyes against violence, and calling our governments to provide solutions to the drivers of violence.

Using violence to fight violence, as a means of peace building is not the best option. I am glad to see the civil paths to peace gaining ground. Across the Commonwealth we have evidence of young people, many un-praised and unheard of, working daily and tirelessly to promote sustainable peace.

Today, I see a new movement of young change makers united under one front. We preach Gandhi's philosophy; he said 'Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the

mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man'.

Young people cannot do this alone. We must partner with our governments to uphold human rights, democracy and good governance. I stand here to call on our governments to support and take youth partnerships seriously for it is the only solution to end the cycle of violence.

I am excited by the presence of so many young people here today; young people who have their future before them.

I have this message for you:

I have seen the ravages of violence, even here in the UK, and I have tasted the honey of peace. I am convinced peace is the only way to achieve sustainable development. Peace is possible. I have made peace my personal business, will you?

Together we can make a difference. Join me on this journey of change. The path may be difficult and dangerous, but together we will make the world a better and more peaceful place.

Thank You."



THE QUEEN'S BATON RELAY IS LAUNCHED

On 13 March, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II set the Gold Coast 2018 Queen's Baton Relay in motion during a commencement ceremony at Buckingham Palace as part of Commonwealth Day celebrations.



Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Earl of Wessex, The Queen placed Her message to the Commonwealth and its athletes inside the distinctive Baton which will travel throughout the Commonwealth for 388 days, covering 230,000 kilometres to its final destination, the Opening Ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018) on 4 April 2018.

Louise Martin CBE President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Peter Beattie AC Chairman of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC) accompanied Her Majesty in the ceremonial party.

Also present for the first time were representatives of the Traditional Custodians of the land where the Commonwealth Games will be held. Patricia O'Connor and Ted Williams, Elders of The Yugambeh

Language Group People, delivered a moving invitation to all First Nations peoples of the Commonwealth to join in the celebrations of the Games on Yugambeh land, reaffirming the Commonwealth's 2017 theme of 'A Peace-building Commonwealth'.

The Baton was collected from Marlborough House and delivered to the Palace by Australian Paralympic champion Kurt Fearnley OAM. Australian cycling legend and Commonwealth and Olympic Games gold medallist, Anna Meares OAM, received the Baton from The Queen after Her message was placed safely inside, taking the Baton through the Palace Gates to longtime rival, track cyclist Victoria Pendleton CBE, in a moment that was symbolic of Her Majesty's long-held belief that friendly competition helps build lasting friendships and strong communities. Together the cyclists carried the Baton around the Queen Victoria Memorial, sharing the excitement with the public. The Baton departed the Palace in the hands of world-renowned Gold Coast singer and environmental champion Cody Simpson, aboard a Kombi van loaded with surfboards as a nod to the Baton's final destination, Gold Coast, Australia and was delivered to Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill DBE who carried the Baton down the aisle at the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey.

The Baton will arrive back in Australia on 25 December 2017 after its 288-day journey to all nations and territories of the Commonwealth whereupon it will visit every state and territory across the country for 100 days.

 **MORE INFORMATION**
www.thecgf.com



↑ Australian Paralympic champion Kurt Fearnley OAM takes the Baton from Marlborough House to Buckingham Palace



↑ Gold medallist, Anna Meares OAM, sets off from the Palace having received the Baton from HM The Queen



↑ Cody Simpson arrives at Westminster Abbey with the Baton

LGBT RIGHTS: PROMOTING THE COMMONWEALTH APPROACH

For three years the RCS has been working to build support for a Commonwealth approach to promoting the rights of its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) people. Against a backdrop of legalised discrimination and increasingly polarised arguments among world leaders, the RCS has sought to use the Commonwealth's strengths to find a more constructive approach to improving the lives of LGBT people.

↓ Caleb Orozco,
winner of the 2017
David Kato Vision
and Voice Award



Assisting with Technical Advice

In 36 out of the 52 Commonwealth countries consensual same-sex activity between adults is still illegal. For many countries the laws which criminalise same-sex intimacy, and are used as the pretext for further discrimination, have their origins in laws imposed by the British colonisers. While some governments remain hostile to reform, many others are quietly looking to decriminalise same-sex intimacy. In recent years Mozambique, Seychelles and Nauru have done just this. Now the RCS is working with legal charity, the Human Dignity Trust to map sexual offences laws across the Commonwealth as a precursor to creating legal tools to assist new countries wishing to modernise their sexual offences laws.

Developing Respectful Dialogue

One of the Commonwealth's defining characteristics as an international forum is its consensus-based

decision making and support for respectful dialogue in any dispute. For several years the RCS convened a series of private roundtables to give London-based Commonwealth diplomats an outlet to discuss issues surrounding the promotion of LGBT rights, in an informal setting conducive to honest debate. This process achieved significant success in normalising a formerly, diplomatically-sensitive topic. Now working with Access Chapter 2, the Champions for an AIDS Free Generation in Africa and the Kaleidoscope Trust, the RCS is looking to develop a similar process in South Africa. It is hoped that convening diplomats in such a setting can build further support and knowledge of how to achieve development, inclusive of all people.

Connecting Civil Society

One of the most crucial aspects of supporting progress on the rights of any community is support by civil society. In January, The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN), a network of LGBT organisations from across the Commonwealth, met in London to plan its strategy for the upcoming Commonwealth Summit in 2018. The RCS and the Kaleidoscope Trust played key roles in advising TCEN about Commonwealth institutions and processes. Civil society continues to play a key role in amplifying the voices of communities and offering expertise to governments trying to develop change. The RCS was honoured to witness LGBT activist, Caleb Orozco receive the David Kato Vision and Voice Award from Sir Ian McKellen. Caleb's moral courage in starting litigation in his home country, Belize, has now resulted in the decriminalisation of consensual same-sex activity.

Despite the colonial legacy of discrimination against LGBT people, the RCS is working to prove that the modern Commonwealth, in all its diversity, can build inclusive development for all.

MORE INFORMATION

- www.thercs.org/our-work/campaigns/lgbt-rights
- www.commonwelthequality.org/about

ROYAL SUPPORT FOR THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH CANOPY

Since its launch in Malta in 2015, The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) has attracted the ongoing support of members of the Royal Family as they attend to duties across the Commonwealth.



From the dedication of the Great Bear Rainforest in Canada by Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, to the acknowledgement of Singapore's leading role in the QCC by The Princess Royal, this support contributed significantly to the initiative's early success. Continuing support came from His Royal Highness Prince Harry who, on 20th November 2016, undertook an official visit to the Caribbean, representing Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of Independence in Antigua and Barbuda, and the 50th Anniversary of Independence in Barbados and Guyana.

During his fourteen day visit, Prince Harry took the opportunity to celebrate the enthusiastic commitment to the QCC throughout the Caribbean by unveiling a number of QCC plaques and by presenting local officials with certificates of QCC partnership.

↓ Prince Harry learns about fenceless grazing in Epping Forest

↘ The Prince thanks the people of St Kitts and Nevis



In Antigua and Barbuda, The Prince planted a tree and unveiled a plaque to acknowledge the dedication of the Victoria Park Botanical Gardens to the QCC. At a speech in St Kitts and Nevis, Prince Harry thanked the people and government for committing the Central Forest Reserve, some 25% of the total land mass of St Kitts, describing the contribution to the QCC as 'incredibly generous'.

On St Lucia, The Prince recognised the serious and direct threat that climate change presented to that country's forests, hailing as critical the role that their QCC dedication, the Castries Water Works Reserve, played in regulating local water supply and preventing soil erosion and landslides in the area.

During his visit to St Vincent and the Grenadines, Prince Harry dedicated the Vermont Nature Trail to the QCC; the Trail has been set aside to preserve the St. Vincent Parrot. Finally, in Grenada, The Prince acknowledged that country's recent commitment to the QCC.

More recently, Prince Harry's ongoing support was welcomed in the UK when he visited Epping Forest, dedicated to the QCC by the City of London Corporation in 2016. During his visit, The Prince learnt about the City's efforts to reinstate cattle grazing across 600 hectares of the forest after this wood pasture management method had fallen into disuse following more than a 1,000 years of practice. Epping Forest is London's largest open space and is home to over a million trees, 50,000 of which are ancient pollards.

 **MORE INFORMATION**
www.queenscommonwealthcanopy.org



THE YOUNG COMMONWEALTH IN ACTION

In the latter part of 2016, The Royal Commonwealth Society staged two Model Commonwealth Summits (youth CHOGMs) in the UK. Both events gave the voice of the young Commonwealth a platform to develop their international and political awareness and express their ideas about contemporary issues.

Model Commonwealth Summits operate much like a model UN scenario, with individuals acting as the heads of government of Commonwealth countries and engaging in discussions as their country would. Critically, country representatives in a Model Commonwealth Summit must reach a consensus on the issues discussed, adding a challenging element that is of great contemporary importance, especially given the 2017 theme of 'A Peace-building Commonwealth'. Summits are a fun way of demonstrating how the Commonwealth works and allow students to actively participate in the learning process. They teach presentation, research and critical thinking skills, as well as global awareness and cultural understanding. The programme is a historical element of RCS work that was revitalised in October 2015 in Tower Hamlets, London.

↓ Participants break for a lobbying session during the Model Commonwealth Summit in Bath, December 2016

↘ The representative of Australia presents his perspective at the Model Commonwealth Summit in Bath

South Wales Youth Summit

On 11-12 November 2016, nearly 100 students from across South Wales took part in the South Wales Youth Summit. Representing seven schools and three Scout groups, the students were invited to discuss local, national and pan-Commonwealth issues in this ground-breaking two day event, the first of its kind. The event was led by Coleg Gwent, RCS Wales, WE Schools and The Royal Commonwealth Society, with a strong focus on the Welsh context.

“
After my amazing experience at the South Wales Youth Summit, I've decided that I want to pursue politics in my life.”

Student from Rhiwbina, Wales

Friday, 11 November was dedicated to workshops facilitated by partner organisation WE schools, exploring change-making in the local community. Students learned about issues that directly affect their everyday lives and developed skills to work on these. The subjects discussed were chosen by the students themselves, reflecting the concerns of young Wales.



Saturday, 12 November took the form of a Model Commonwealth Summit, facilitated by The Royal Commonwealth Society. Students were assigned a country, media or communiqué team role and asked to engage in a mock-CHOGM. Participants were impressive, debating challenging issues with sophistication and diplomacy well beyond their years. Both days were filmed and publicised by The Royal Commonwealth Society of Wales and visited by a number of celebrities including Simon Weston, CBE and Chris Evans, MP.

“

You inspired me to do more in my life right now. Like volunteering and getting involved in politics.”

Student from Cowbridge, Wales

Response to the event was uniformly positive, with every student who gave feedback noting that they knew more about the Commonwealth as a direct result of the Summit. Students also reported feeling inspired and capable of taking action to improve their local community. As one student from Blackwood noted, the event ‘inspired an interest in politics throughout the youth of Wales by allowing our voices to be heard.’

Model Commonwealth Summit, Bath

On 3 December, a smaller, more in-depth discussion was staged in the Guildhall, Bath. This event, targeted at young people aged 16-28, saw participants debating the highly topical issues of Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Gender Equality. The last debate was disrupted by a staged ‘media alert’, which challenged delegates to think on their feet and respond to a crisis as their country would.

Feedback from participants showed that the event was very well received. One delegate highlighted the ‘cognitively stimulating discussion’ as a key element of the Summit, while another said they ‘really enjoyed attending and learning so much about the Commonwealth and the issues discussed’. All participants



enjoyed the Summit and learned more about the Commonwealth by taking part.

↑ **The representative of Nigeria addresses the group at the South Wales Youth Summit**

Helen Jones, MBE, Director of Education and Youth Affairs at the Royal Commonwealth Society, said that the Model Commonwealth Summit in Bath was ‘a chance to see young scholars from across the UK engage in highly relevant discussions in a Commonwealth model. Participants were impressive in their diplomatic efforts and everyone participated in every discussion. This is, as we say, the young Commonwealth in action.’

The Model Commonwealth Summit in Bath was generously supported by the RCS Bath, which provided the financial support needed to see the event staged in the Guildhall. The beautiful surroundings added a significant level of prestige to the already impactful day.

Moving Forward

Given the enormous success of the Youth CHOGMs that were staged in 2016, The Royal Commonwealth Society is planning to host more events in the UK and support a select number of Summits abroad in 2017. Proposed sites include Birmingham, London, Scotland, and Cardiff, with other countries yet to be determined. This historic programme is well on its way to re-establishment, a welcome move for teaching and learning about the Commonwealth.

 **MORE INFORMATION**
[www.thercs.org/youth-and-education/
 model-commonwealth-summits](http://www.thercs.org/youth-and-education/model-commonwealth-summits)

CAPITALISING ON THE COMMONWEALTH

New research by the RCS and PLMR shows clearly that there is a strong appetite among UK businesses and our networks for greater Commonwealth trading arrangements. Its release coincided with the inaugural Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Meeting.

In January, the RCS and consultancy firm PLMR commissioned polling by IFF Research to ask 500 UK businesses for their Commonwealth trade priorities.

Our research was covered by various media outlets in Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, and South Africa, as well as supported by former UK Trade Minister and Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, Lord Digby Jones. Writing in City AM, Lord Jones said: "I am optimistic – particularly with the Commonwealth. The government should start saying 'We are up for this!' and take the Commonwealth seriously on trade. It is clear that the country's businesses are."

While Australia was prioritised as the most important market, London and Scotland-based businesses prioritised Canada for a trade deal. South Africa was also prioritised second by London businesses. Nationally, Malaysia and Kenya were seen as good targets for trade deals by 50% and 40% of businesses respectively. Support for Kenya was even higher in London and support for the Caribbean is also significant. The polling data demonstrates that there is an expectation from UK businesses that their government will seek trade deals with its Commonwealth partners.

To complement our polling of UK businesses, the RCS surveyed over 200 members of RCS branches and Associate Fellows. There was clear support for building new liberalised trade and visa agreements with the UK. The greatest support came from the Pacific region where 89% answered positively. However, expectations that trade deals would actually happen was much lower, only 56%.

Ease of travel is another crucial area that our networks hope the UK will explore. 77% agreed or strongly agreed that their country should create a liberalised visa

British businesses prioritise trade with Commonwealth countries post-Brexit

UK businesses were asked: Which Commonwealth nations or regions do you think the Government should prioritise to be the most important trading partner for the UK in the post-Brexit environment?



Size of business



India is the most important market for micro businesses.



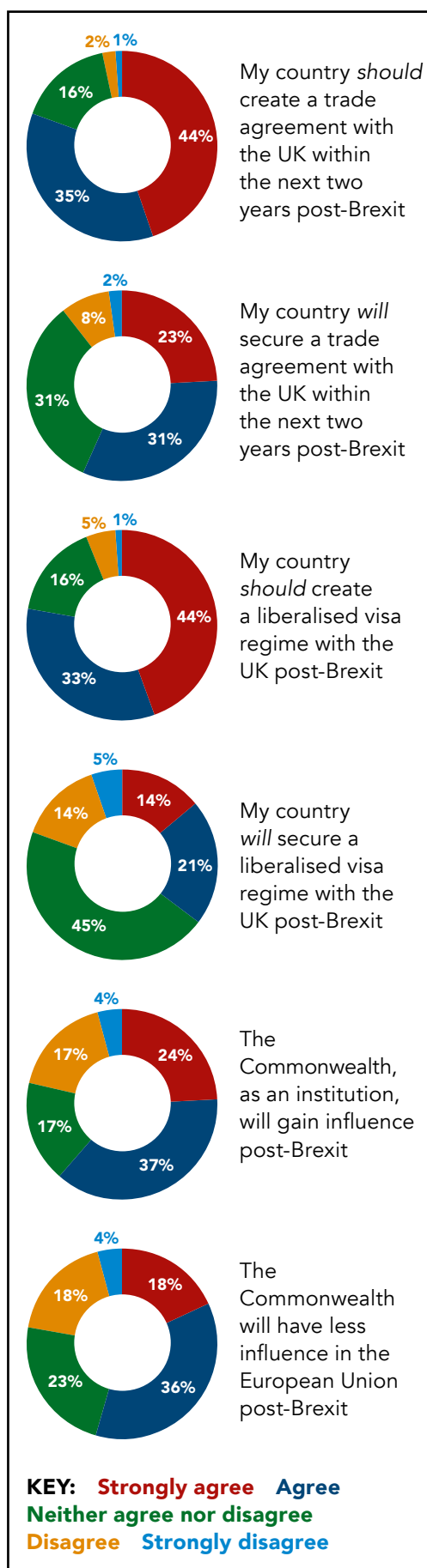
India is the second most important market for large business leaders, with **65%** deeming the country a priority. **Australia** is ahead on **82%** and **Singapore** third on **62%**.



SME leaders rank **Singapore** as their second most important Commonwealth market behind **Australia**, but ahead of **New Zealand**.



Canada and **New Zealand** are identified less frequently the larger the size of business, but are retained in the top five. Their strengths are with sole traders and micro businesses.



“

As the UK government plans new trade deals after Brexit, it is worth reactivating the long-standing trading relationships embedded within the network of 52 nations comprising the Commonwealth. As smaller economies than the US, China, and EU, it may be possible to conclude trade deals more quickly with Commonwealth nations and allow Britain to gain the benefits of trade as well as notch up more practical experience in negotiating deals before it tackles the biggest countries in the world.””

Dr. Linda Yueh, Royal Commonwealth Society Trustee, Adjunct Professor at London Business School, and Fellow of St Edmund Hall, Oxford University

regime with the UK. However, optimism that this would happen was also significantly muted at 35%. This result suggests that there is a large difference between desire for travel and expectation that the UK will see this as important.

The majority of those polled believed the Commonwealth, as an institution, would gain influence post-Brexit. Although, there were big differences in opinion between different age groups and genders. Only 55% of women thought the Commonwealth would gain influence compared to the total average of 61%. The same proportion of 18-30 year olds agreed that it would become more influential compared to an average of 75%.

Many of our network members identified the Commonwealth's influence in the European Union as a particular challenge. 54% agreed or strongly agreed that it would lose influence in the EU once the UK had left. If this is likely, Commonwealth governments will have to find innovative ways to ensure their collective voice is able to engage the EU.

While there is an expectation of challenges ahead, our networks are clearly supportive of creating new agreements to build on existing ties. As the UK government scopes the country's foreign policy post-Brexit, our research shows there is a clear appetite for them to capitalise on the Commonwealth.

MORE INFORMATION

- www.thercs.org/our-work/research-and-reports
- www.plmr.co.uk

RCS BRANCHES CELEBRATE COMMONWEALTH DAY

University of Douala Commonwealth Club

On Thursday 16 March, students, staff, the authorities of the University of Douala, regional and City dignitaries were invited to the Nelson Mandela Grandstand for a student-led celebration of Commonwealth Day, one of a series of events which included a roundtable conference on 'A Peace-Building Commonwealth' and a scientific conference at which over 60 scholars from universities in Cameroon, Nigeria and the UK presented papers on 'Peace'.



Barbados Branch

On 13th March, Barbados branch held its annual multi-faith Observance in the presence of His Excellency Sir Elliott Belgrave, GCMG, KA Governor General of Barbados. On 16th a reception was held at the residence of the New Zealand High Commissioner

in celebration of Commonwealth day with Sir Anand Satyanand in attendance.



Dominican Republic

The Roundtable of Commonwealth Countries in the Dominican Republic gained impressive media coverage for

their event marking Commonwealth Day, attended by diplomats from those nations accredited in the Dominican Republic. Roundtable President, Fernando González, delivered the keynote speech saying that Commonwealth countries, namely Canada, India and Great Britain, formed the Dominican Republic's third largest trading partner after the US and Haiti.



Pakistan

Commonwealth Day 2017 was observed by Commonwealth Peoples Friendship Association (CPFA) on 13th March 2017 in Karachi. Mr Shamim Ahmed Firpo, President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) was the Chief Guest and spoke of co-operation, friendship, brotherhood and business relations between Commonwealth countries. The renowned scholar and educationalist Prof. Anwar Ahmed Zai emphasized the need of the present Commonwealth for unity and peace-building. HM The Queen's message was read by Mr Syed Masroor Ali (President CPFA) and Affirmations by Ms Tasleema Naz.



Ghana

RCS Regional Co-ordinators launched an impressive ten day programme, including a presentation to Parliament, a reception at the British High Commission, a careers fair, school assemblies – all against a background of national TV, radio and social media coverage. The Commonwealth Day evening reception included Gloria Akuffo, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Government Ministers, CEOs of Ghanaian businesses, Scholars and RCS Associate Fellows.



Canberra

The Australian Capital Territory branch of the RCS held their Commonwealth Day Multi-Faith Celebration on 13th March, at which Lieutenant-General John Sanderson AC was the guest speaker. The UK High Commissioner, Menna Rawlings, spoke both at the event at the NSW Parliament House in Sydney, and then at the Commonwealth Dinner focussing on 'Global Britain' and the Commonwealth.



Cayman Islands

RCS Cayman Islands branch observed Commonwealth Day by raising the Commonwealth flag outside the Government Administration Building in the presence of the Governor Helen Kilpatrick, the Premier Alden McLaughlin, Deputy Governor Franz Manderson, Cabinet Ministers and government officials. Honorary Representative, Lemuel Hurlston, read out a message from the Commonwealth Secretary-General. A representative from Girlguiding Cayman Islands read the Affirmation and members of the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps raised the flag.



MORE CELEBRATIONS: Photos continue on the back cover and at www.thercs.org/international-network

BRANCH FOCUS



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
Cayman Islands Branch

As an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom, the Cayman Islands, through an Honorary Representative, have been active in Commonwealth affairs and programmes for over three decades.

A steering group of local volunteers that include the former Honorary Representative, The Honourable Justice Charles Quin QC, have drafted and gained approval of a constitution to guide the Branch operations.

The Honorary Representative, Mr Lemuel Hurlston, CVO, MBE, JP, has said about this initiative, "I am delighted that a Branch organization is being formed with the support of the Cayman Islands Government (and in accordance with the Charter and General Rules of the RCS) and anticipate that broader voluntary participation in Commonwealth affairs will result and new ideas will come forward to improve the work of building a sustainable slate of Commonwealth activities."

Under the proposed Constitution, the Honorary Representative becomes The President of the Executive of the Branch while the former Honorary Representative will become an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

BRANCH FOCUS



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
Cyprus Branch

"I welcome the establishment of the RCS Cyprus branch which will be based within the University of Nicosia. I am certain that the RCS Branch in Cyprus will be of added value to the overall RCS international network and that it will further promote and principles and values of both the RCS and of the Commonwealth in general.

I would like to praise the work done thus far by the Honorary Representative of the RCS in Cyprus and for promoting the RCS activities such as the annual Commonwealth Essay competition". – *High Commissioner of Cyprus, Euripides L. Evriviades*

The affiliation of the Branch with the University of Nicosia, which is the largest university in Cyprus, will contribute towards the promotion of the principles and values of the RCS and the Commonwealth in general. The Dean of the School of Law of the University, Professor Achilles Emilianides will be heading the Branch within the spirit of the charter of the RCS. The establishment of the RCS Branch in Cyprus, which is situated at the cross-roads of the Eastern Mediterranean, is evidence of the Commonwealth's active role in promoting peace and prosperity and bringing citizens closer.

BRANCH FOCUS



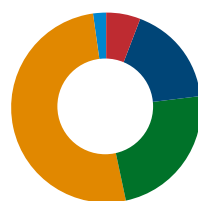
THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
Nordic-Baltic Hub

The RCS Nordic-Baltic Hub, based in Helsinki, was founded early in 2017. The NB Hub, supported by established founder organisations, including the British & Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce in Finland and a number of diaspora associations, will raise awareness of the Commonwealth in the Nordic-Baltic Region (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden).

There are over 350,000 Commonwealth citizens in the region and the hub aims to implement the RCS' programmes and policies to improve their lives and the understanding of their issues both at home and in their country of residence.

The RCS Nordic-Baltic Hub will provide companies and organisations in the Nordic-Baltic region with opportunities to improve their outreach and interaction with Commonwealth countries, communities and people.

Commonwealth Citizens in the Region



- Finland **21,007**
- Sweden **60,468**
- Denmark **82,217**
- Norway **180,042**
- Iceland **7,000**

Figures from 2015-2016

MORE INFORMATION: www.thercs.org/international-network/europe/europe-branches

COMING UP IN THE COMMONWEALTH

6 APRIL

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2017 (United Nations)

23 APRIL

English Language Day 2017 (United Nations)



THE QUEEN'S
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2017

1 MAY

Entry deadline for The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2017

21 MAY

Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting, Geneva

5 JUNE

World Environment Day 2017 (United Nations)

13-16 JUNE

2nd Commonwealth Science Conference, Singapore (Commonwealth Secretariat, Government of Singapore, Royal Society)

19-23 JUNE

Triennial General Assembly and Symposium on Heritage and Nation Building, Canada (CAM)

20-30 JUNE

The Queen's Young Leaders Programme (QYLP) Residential week, London and Cambridge. Nominations open for QYLP (The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, Comic Relief and the RCS)

19-23 JULY

6th Commonwealth Youth Games, The Bahamas (CGF)

31 JULY - 4 AUGUST

Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM), Kampala, Uganda

12 AUGUST

International Youth Day (United Nations)

TBC SEPTEMBER

Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM), New York

21 SEPTEMBER

International Day of Peace (United Nations)

5 OCTOBER

World Teachers Day (United Nations)

TBC OCTOBER

Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting (CFMM), Washington DC

16-18 OCTOBER

Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting, Bahamas

21-24 NOVEMBER 2017

Commonwealth Local Government Conference, Valetta, Malta (CLGF)

KEEP IN THE CONVERSATION

www.thercs.org

[@TheRCSLondon](https://twitter.com/TheRCSLondon)

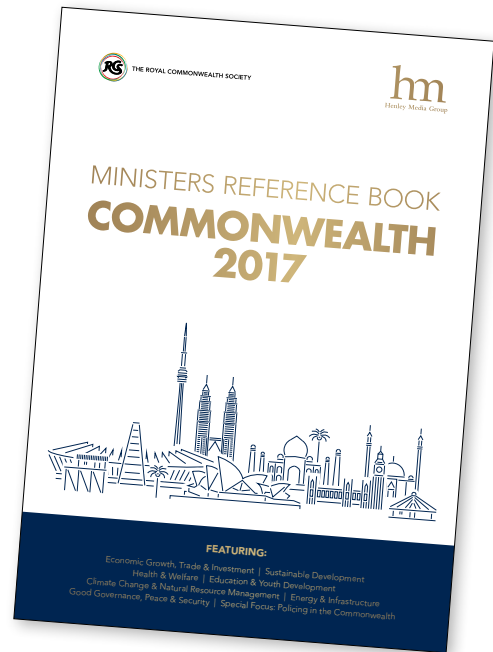
[/thercs](https://www.facebook.com/thercs)

[/TheRCSociety](https://www.youtube.com/TheRCSociety)

Today's Commonwealth accounts for over 20% of global trade and its people amount to one-third of the world's population. As such, the modern Commonwealth forms one of the largest areas of commercial opportunity and investment, and one of the biggest challenges for sustainable social and environmental development in the world.

It is within this context that The Royal Commonwealth Society and Henley Media Group have produced *The Ministers Reference Book: Commonwealth 2017*. This report aims to help foster sustainable economic, social and environmental development across this vast family of nations through a number of authoritative views.

The Ministers Reference Book: Commonwealth 2017 was launched at the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey on Monday 13th March and can be read online at www.thercs.org/our-work/publications.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY



WWW.THERCS.ORG/OURWORK/PUBLICATIONS

COMMONWEALTH GOLFING SOCIETY



The Commonwealth Golfing Society was formed in 1950 to enable visiting diplomats and employees seconded to companies in London, the opportunity to play prestigious courses that were otherwise unavailable.

The Society divides the nations into five regions and each fixture has regional prizes:

- Australia-Canada
- Asia
- Africa
- and S.E. Asia
- United Kingdom
- Islands

In the days of increasing business pressures, a day on the golf course is a welcome release and the modest annual membership fee of £40 entitles members to invite guests to fixtures. Each fixture is made up of an 18 hole singles stableford and optionally a 9 or 18 hole (dependent on the course) pairs stableford. A handicap of 20 or lower is desirable.

Enquiries are welcomed from those with a Commonwealth connection by our President, Alan Mabbs, on 07725 221764 or info@commonwealthgolf.org

Fixtures for 2017

Friday 19th May

Waterlooville (Host to England Women's County Finals)

Thursday 15th June

Walton Heath (Host to US Open Qualifier, Ryder Cup and European Tour)

Tuesday 11th July

Hankley Common (Host to The Open Qualifier and Boys Home Internationals)

Friday 8th September

The Berkshire (Host to Berkshire Trophy & British Senior Open Qualifier)

Thursday 28th September

Langley Park (Host to The Open Qualifier)

commonwealthgolf.org





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