

CPA UK ANNUAL REVIEW 2017/18

HIGHLIGHTS





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We exist to support and strengthen parliamentary democracy throughout the Commonwealth, and to learn from fellow Commonwealth Parliaments. We are the largest and most active branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and have been a key player ever since CPA's forerunner was formed in 1911. We share CPA's aims, which include developing and supporting Parliamentarians and their staff, and helping them implement the enduring values of the Commonwealth.

ABOUT US

We have developed a distinctive ability and capacity in this area, drawing on the UK Parliament's propensity to learn, evolve and inform. Peer to peer learning is central to our methodology. We design and deliver opportunities for UK and Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials to meet and to share knowledge in order to improve parliamentary oversight, scrutiny and representation.

We are funded by the UK Parliament, where we are based. We're governed by an Executive Committee made up of 20 parliamentarians from both the House of Commons and the House of Lords who are elected at the Annual General Meeting. As part of our Strategic Review, we now have a new vision and purpose:

Our Vision

Inclusive, representative and transparent Commonwealth Parliaments; fully effective in enforcing the accountability of the executive and representing the interests and concerns of the electorate.

Our Purpose

To learn from and strengthen Commonwealth parliaments to deliver effective oversight, scrutiny and representation.

For more information please see: www.uk-cpa.org/about/who-we-are/

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Duddridge'.

Following the snap election in April 2017, I was delighted to be elected as the chair of the newly formed Executive Committee. We have focused our efforts towards a strategic review in order to enhance the impact this organisation has on Commonwealth Parliaments.

It had come at a time when we said thank you and farewell to Andrew Tuggey CBE DL, the former Chief Executive who over his fourteen-year tenure identified the demand for parliamentary strengthening across the Commonwealth and pioneered the Modern Slavery Project. We welcomed Jon Davies as the new Chief Executive of CPA UK who brings with him years of experience from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Looking forward, it is an important time for the UK within the Commonwealth. The UK hosted the Heads of Government meeting in April and we hope to continue strengthening our ties during an era of new trade deals as we leave the European Union. The Gambia became the newest member of the Commonwealth family earlier this year and we hope to also welcome more members including Zimbabwe.

James Duddridge MP, Chair, CPA UK Executive Committee

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jon Davies'.

This is my first Annual Review as Chief Executive. I was fortunate to take over from someone as dedicated as Andrew Tuggey, and to inherit a strong and highly committed team.

However strong our team, our impact relies on the members and staff of the Houses of Parliament. As you will see, many give generously their expertise and their time – despite other pressures. I have seen first-hand the energy and enthusiasm they bring to their contacts with fellow parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth. I have also seen their keenness to learn from others – a theme of the new Strategy which we will launch in mid-2018.

A real highlight of the year was our Commonwealth Parliamentarians' Forum. This was a first. We want it to be the spark for the CPA doing more to help Commonwealth countries deliver on the commitments made at their London Summit.

I hope you enjoy reading about our work, and that you will want to be involved in 2018 and beyond.

Jon Davies, Chief Executive, CPA UK

1

A NEW ERA IN THE GAMBIA

After 22 years of autocratic rule in The Gambia, the unexpected election victory of President Adama Barrow has returned the country to democratic rule and to the Commonwealth network.

We have been working collaboratively with the new National Assembly since their parliamentary elections in April 2017, alongside the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

We delivered an induction programme for new members (who make up 90% of the Assembly) based on their strategic objectives with a focus on parliamentary procedures, legislative scrutiny and constituency matters.

The collaborative programme meant UK members gained a greater understanding of The Gambia's challenges with coalition governments and succession planning, and supported discussions on re-joining the Commonwealth family.

This paved the way for further collaborative working. Members from the National Assembly attended our Westminster based programmes alongside other parliamentarians from the Commonwealth which provided opportunities to share learning and grow networks.

In January 2018, the National Assembly signed a two year Memorandum of Understanding with us and the Westminster Foundation for Development to strengthen their parliamentary processes, in particular committee oversight, legislation and public outreach. This was welcomed by the Speaker of the National Assembly who is "looking forward to working closely with the UK Parliament."

Shortly afterwards, The Gambia officially re-joined the Commonwealth and we continue to work closely with their National Assembly.



NAMIBIA'S HOLISTIC APPROACH TO A STRONGER PARLIAMENT

2

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017/18

We have continued to develop strong links with the Parliament of Namibia who have been involved in various programmes to strengthen legislative scrutiny, tackle human trafficking and improve their information services in Parliament.

Through a number of programmes held in Namibia and the UK, Members of Parliament and Clerks have increased their understanding of Parliamentary practice and procedure.

As a result of participation in the Modern Slavery Project Legislative Drafting Seminar on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, the Parliament of Namibia has since passed amendments to its human trafficking legislation.

A visiting delegation of UK MPs, were warmly received by the Namibian National Assembly in November 2017, to share approaches on scrutinising legislation. A three-day workshop with 25 members and clerks, looked at how to improve the legislation produced and was described as 'magnificent' by a delegate.

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie is seated in a meeting room, looking down at a large open document he is holding. He is wearing glasses. In the background, there are several teal chairs and a wooden wall. The image is partially obscured by a purple gradient overlay.

A FAIRER FUTURE FOR PAKISTAN

3

Our programmes with Pakistan have seen the implementation of their Code of Conduct for Members and the introduction of a human trafficking bill.

As a result of our past engagement with Pakistan, The Senate developed a Code of Conduct and established a Committee on Ethics.

Throughout the year, Parliamentarians from both houses engaged with their peers through the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop and the subsequent Legislative Drafting Seminar under the Modern Slavery Project. Following the workshop and seminar, participants tabled a bill in the National Assembly, with a view to passing it in the Senate and ultimately creating a new piece of anti-trafficking legislation.

Our long-term partnership with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus has meant that since 2012, we have delivered programmes to enhance the role and capabilities of women parliamentarians on areas including economic empowerment, maternal health, access to justice, and building a community for change.



BANGLADESH'S ROHINGYA REFUGEES

4

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017/18

Learning with our fellow CPA Branches; and from a challenging yet inspiring visit to the Rohingya refugee camps.

Bangladesh's Parliament played host to the 2017 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Dhaka. CPA UK took a cross-party delegation from both Houses. Our members played a full part in discussions with delegates from across the Commonwealth on subjects ranging from the Rohingya refugee crisis to youth participation and women's representation. The Conference also saw the election of Cameroon's Deputy Speaker Emilia Lifaka as the CPA's Chair.

With the Conference over, the delegation travelled to Cox's Bazar, to visit the Rohingya refugee camps. They saw for themselves the dreadful conditions and heard first-hand the refugees' terrible stories of violence, flight and squalor. Following the visit, they raised what they had seen in a series of questions and debates in parliament, articles in the media and with the Myanmar Ambassador. They will not forget what they saw and heard.



ISLE OF MAN

Newly elected members in the Isle of Man learned about the UK's parliamentary system.



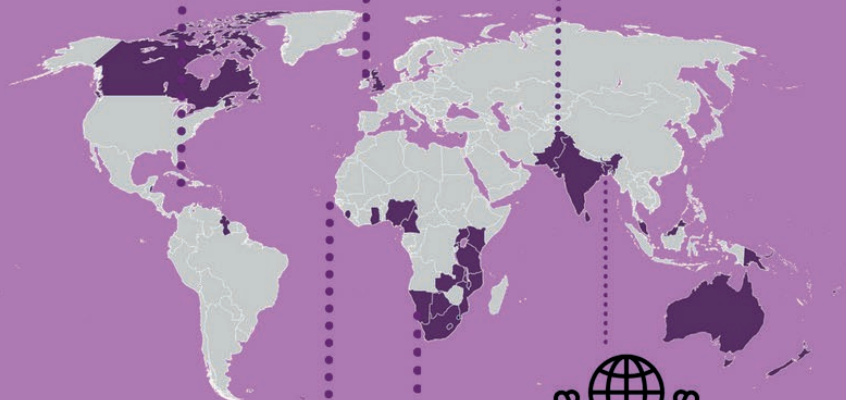
PAKISTAN

Our programmes with Pakistan have seen the implementation of their Code of Conduct for Members and the introduction of a human trafficking bill.



CAYMAN ISLANDS

Election Observation Missions in the Cayman Islands have led to positive changes to their electoral system.



THE GAMBIA

After 22 years of autocratic rule in The Gambia, the unexpected election victory of President Adama Barrow has returned the country to democratic rule and to the Commonwealth network.



BANGLADESH

Understanding Bangladesh's challenges with our fellow CPA Branches and witnessing the tragic Rohingya refugee crisis.



NAMIBIA

We have continued to develop strong links with the Parliament of Namibia to strengthen legislative scrutiny, tackle human trafficking and improve their information services in Parliament.

THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS' FORUM



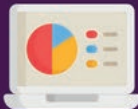
An initiative to bring together legislators from Commonwealth Parliaments for their own opportunity to engage on the key themes and issues of a forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

AN ELECTION ASSESSMENT MISSION TO ASSESS THE 2017 UK GENERAL ELECTION



The UK electoral system was assessed by international observers against both UK and international standards

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES PROJECT: STRENGTHENING PUBLIC FINANCIAL SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



We have worked with the UK Government Internal Audit Agency and the UK National Audit Office to organise activities in Overseas Territory.

INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACIES



We recognise that good parliamentary democracies are inclusive - bringing a voice to all the people they represent.

USING LEGISLATION TO COMBAT MODERN SLAVERY



Our Modern Slavery Project is a two-year project which provides practical advice and support to Commonwealth legislatures in combatting modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour.



ONE PERSON ONE VOTE ELECTORAL SYSTEM INTRODUCED IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

5 Election Observation Missions in the Cayman Islands have led to positive changes to their electoral system.

Election Observation Missions in the Cayman Islands in 2013 and 2017 have identified a number of recommendations to improve the electoral system for its citizens.

The 2017 General Election in the Cayman Islands held its first “one person – one vote” election meaning voters can only vote for candidates in their district. It was also the fourth election since the introduction of a political party system in the Cayman Islands. Following the 2017 election mission, further recommendations were made around residency requirements for candidates being “problematic” and an “undue restriction”. The recommendation was reported and discussed in local media. In August, the Cayman Islands Grand Court considered a court case related to the eligibility requirements and ruled in favour of a relaxation of the eligibility rules.

Along with CPA counterparts in the British Islands and Mediterranean region, we continue to bring together parliamentarians and analysts in various Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies to assess electoral systems against international standards and domestic laws.



ISLE OF MAN'S NEW PARLIAMENT

6

Newly elected members in the Isle of Man learned about the UK's parliamentary system.

Following the elections in the Tynwald of Isle of Man in April 2017, we invited all members of the House of Keys to a familiarisation programme in Westminster. This was an opportunity for newly elected members of the self-governing British Crown dependency to understand the Westminster system and its parliamentary practices and procedures.

Members came in two groups in May and October 2017 and covered areas including the responsibilities of a parliamentarian, oversight and scrutiny and public outreach. They visited an MP's constituency office to learn and share experiences of serving their communities.

The Speaker of the House of Keys, Hon. Juan Watterson SHK commented: 'We are delighted to attend CPA UK's programme in Westminster. This visit is an important opportunity to learn more about the Westminster system and to reinforce the strong relationship between our parliaments.'

After the programme, members reported an increased level of targeted and effective questions in debates.



7 THE FORUM: COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS INFLUENCE THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

An initiative to bring together legislators from Commonwealth Parliaments to engage on the key themes and issues of a forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The Commonwealth Parliamentarians' Forum in February 2018 used varied techniques to explore, collaborate and share learning to better inform and influence their governments ahead of the Commonwealth Summit - in an unprecedented way. Through high level discussion focused on Fairness, Sustainability, Security and Prosperity.

With more than 427 years of combined parliamentary experience, 86 parliamentary representatives took part in lively discussions and questioned expert panellists on areas including: global health, freedom of religion and financing for development.

It was clear however that climate change was at the top of the agenda for many of the island nations, as they bear the immediate brunt of its impact. The discussions sparked a Youth Delegate to take action calling for a Climate Change Committee to be formed at the upcoming summit.

Following the success of the first Commonwealth Parliamentarians' Forum, we will be advocating for a Forum ahead of the next Summit in Rwanda in 2020.



INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACIES



We recognise that good parliamentary democracies are inclusive - bringing a voice to all the people they represent.

Achieving representative democracies is a key theme throughout our work. We are an active participant in the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network which promotes women in politics, builds capacity and provides networking opportunities for women joining parliaments in the British Islands and Mediterranean region.

We have also actively engaged to increase representation of disabled people, young people, ethnic minorities and LGBTI groups.

In particular, some of our recent programmes have involved bright and ambitious youth delegates. They have added value to programmes and to the overall experience of Commonwealth parliamentarians as well as benefitting themselves.

Our most recent events such as the Westminster Seminar and the Commonwealth Parliamentarians' Forum have brought together dozens of bright and ambitious youth delegates, highlighting the significance of a future-oriented and renewed Commonwealth. It keeps the youth focus of the Commonwealth at the heart of discussions.



9 AN ELECTION ASSESSMENT MISSION TO ASSESS THE 2017 UK GENERAL ELECTION

The UK electoral system was assessed by international observers against both UK and international standards

Once the snap election was called in the spring of 2017, we invited 32 Commonwealth MPs and senior election officials to observe the election day in 8 constituencies across the UK.

One objective was to observe if the polling stations visited implemented the new regulation that voters queuing at 10pm are still able to cast their votes, a direct outcome of the 2015 CPA UK organised mission. Observers were happy to see that the recommendations made by CPA UK had made an impact.

The Mission made a number of recommendations following their observations such as introducing measures to tackle double voting in more than one constituency which was reported in *The Times* and contributed to a wider discussion in the media and Parliament.

OUR SPECIAL PROJECTS

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES PROJECT



Strengthening public financial scrutiny and accountability in nine UK Overseas Territories

A £1.6m three year project funded by the UK Government's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We work with the UK Government Internal Audit Agency and the UK National Audit Office

Our project enables stronger public financial oversight and scrutiny, sharing experiences on common challenges and solutions

MODERN SLAVERY PROJECT



Strengthening legislation to combat Modern Slavery across the Commonwealth

A £0.45m two year project funded by the UK Home Office, which has been awarded an additional £0.5m for another 2 years

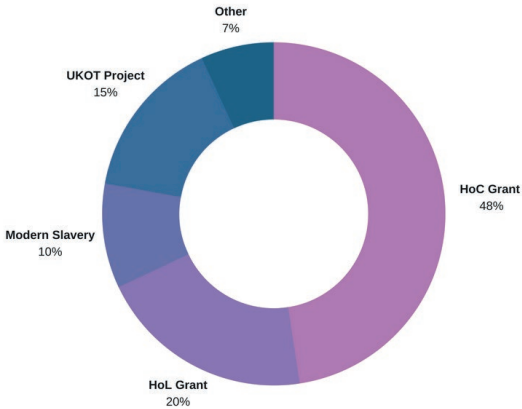
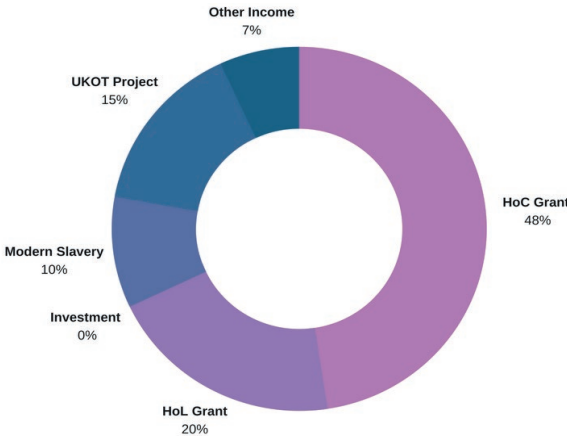
We work with Commonwealth parliamentarians, lawyers and experts

Our project aims to encourage a greater understanding of the national and international benefits of introducing modern slavery-related legislation

In the financial year 2017/18, we received an annual grant-in-aid payment of £1,818,864 from the Houses of Parliament (70% Commons / 30% Lords). We successfully bid for funding for two multiyear special projects described above which had a combined income of £672,870. In addition, we secured £184,326 from government departments and parliamentary partners to undertake key activities such as enhancing the performance of Parliaments and Electoral Observation Missions.

This is a summary of our financial activities, extracted from the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018.

Copies of the full Annual Report and Accounts are available on our website: www.uk-cpa.org



Our work in numbers

In 2017/18 we have worked with:



600+

Commonwealth
Parliamentarians
and Clerks

38 countries in the
Commonwealth
and
13 UK Overseas Territories
and Crown Dependencies

We have run:



15

Delegations from the UK to other
Commonwealth countries



35

Delegations from other
Commonwealth countries to the
UK



9

Multi-country programmes



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