

Delegation Visit to South Africa

REPORT SUMMARY

19 - 22 May 2025



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

A CPA UK delegation travelled to the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa in May 2025 for a programme focusing on three areas: parliamentary committees, health collaboration and tackling gender-based violence.



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The visit sought to build relationships between new members of both parliaments after both countries held elections in 2024. New members have taken on parliamentary responsibilities for the first time, including joining committees that link to their experience before their elections.

The civil society engagements, facilitated by the British High Commission, gave the UK delegation a better understanding of the issues facing South African members. CPA UK is grateful for the support of the Parliament of South Africa and the British High Commission in making this visit possible.

CPA UK DELEGATION

Lord Kamall (Delegation
Leader)

Beccy Cooper MP

Graeme Downie MP

Brian Mathew MP

Lord Lemos

Jacob Loose (CPA UK)



The UK delegation meeting South African National Assembly Members

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK - CPA UK

Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament, London SW1A 0AA

[@CPA_UK](#) T: +44 (0)20 7219 5373 E: cpauk@parliament.uk www.uk-cpa.org

Registered Charity No. 1095118 | Registered Company No. 4606846 



Delegation Visit to South Africa

FULL REPORT

CPA UK IN SOUTH AFRICA, March 2023

On 20-23 March 2023, CPA UK organised its first delegation visit to the Parliament of South Africa in over a decade.

This visit reaffirmed the relationship between our two parliaments and strengthened the connections between Members. The timing was also significant, with both countries looking ahead to Elections.



The UK delegation meeting the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces

Parliamentary Committees

The CPA UK delegation met with committees from both Houses in the Parliament of South Africa, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, to share learning on topics including energy, water and education.

On energy, members shared the challenges associated with the transition to green energy in both the UK and South Africa. The UK delegation shared the Africa APPG's [Just Energy Transition Report](#), which was published following CPA UK's previous visit to the South African parliament in March 2023. UK members highlighted the importance of upskilling workers and providing technical education. South African members made the case that the transition would need to happen at an appropriate pace for communities.

On water, both sides shared the experience of London and Johannesburg which both have privatised water systems. The South African members pointed to the issue of water leakage and the variation in quality of water infrastructure for different neighbourhoods which links to the country's apartheid history. The UK delegation shared constituents' concerns about sewage in the water supply and the legislative efforts to make water companies more accountable.

On education, South African members highlighted the high levels of demand for social workers and the key role that they play in supporting children that are experiencing difficult home lives. The UK delegation reflected on their visit to the organisation Community Keepers which showed the important work a social worker can do to provide support for school children when they are a trusted member of the local community. The UK members also raised the issue of wellbeing for children, with increases in anxiety and loneliness linked to social media use, and the role of legislation in combating this.

Health Collaboration

The visiting UK parliamentarians had a particular interest in global health and were keen to explore opportunities for further collaboration with South Africa in this area. On the first day of the visit, the British High Commission organised a visit to the Centre for Epidemic Research and Innovation (CERI), including their newly constructed Biomedical Research Institute.



Members of the UK delegation meeting with South African Parliament Members



Members of the UK delegation on the tour of CERI

The founder of CERI, Professor Tulio de Oliveira, led the team that identified a variant of COVID-19 in 2021. This information was shared internationally so that other countries could prepare as effectively as possible, highlighting the importance of global health collaboration.

There is ongoing work between the UK and South Africa to share data about upcoming flu strains. As a result of the different flu seasons and the high levels of travel between the UK and South Africa, accessing this data plays a key role in making the flu jab as effective as possible. The delegation pointed out that it would be important to raise public understanding of this valuable work that is protecting elderly and vulnerable people.

Addressing Gender-Based Violence

As part of this visit, the British High Commission organised a roundtable meeting with the organisation Rape Crisis. This organisation has close to 50 years of experience in supporting survivors of rape on their road to recovery and justice, as well as advocating for policy change. The delegation had the opportunity to meet with colleagues working on psychosocial support, legal advice and policy advocacy.



Roundtable meeting with Rape Crisis in Cape Town



Roundtable Meeting with Rape Crisis in Cape Town

In both the UK and South Africa there is a high rate of collapsing prosecutions for survivors of sexual violence. For the few cases that reach court, survivors may be asked to face perpetrators. The group discussed the need for justice systems to be more survivor-led, with better provision for video evidence. The delegation was interested in the support Rape Crisis provides to survivors in navigating this court process and considering how these lessons could be implemented in the UK.

Impact & Next Steps

The CPA UK delegation was privileged to see the high level of cross-party engagement on parliamentary committees in South Africa, working on the same issues that they are also grappling with in the UK such as energy, water and education. There are many similarities in the debates taking place in both countries, and the delegation appreciated the mutual sharing of learning and experiences.

In June 2025, CPA UK helped to coordinate a meeting on health collaboration with South Africa in coordination with the International Development Committee. This meeting included representatives from CERl, the UK Health Security Agency and the Wellcome Sanger Institute. Following the meeting there is an ambition for these organisations to work more widely with Commonwealth countries on health collaboration.

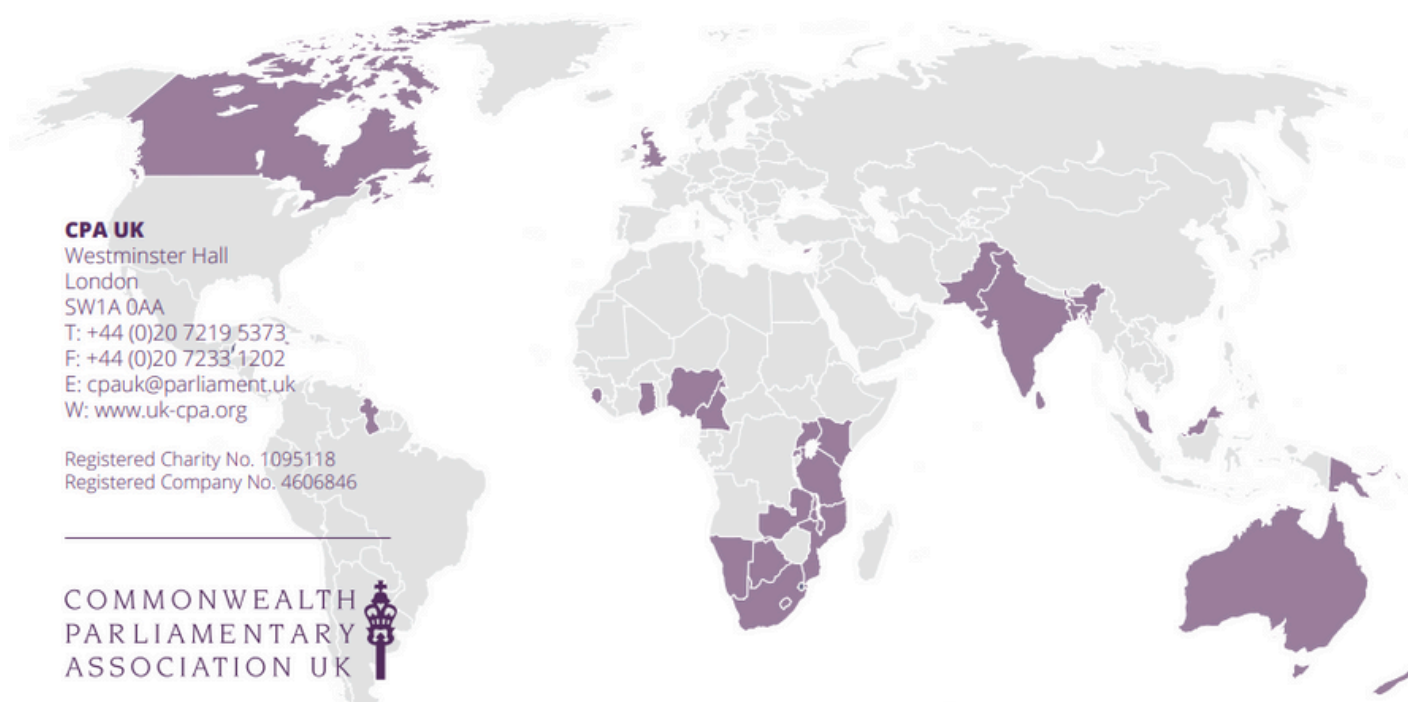


Viewing of Budget Reading to the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

Also in June, CPA UK arranged a meeting with the Western Cape Speaker and Leader of the Opposition to gain a stronger understanding of the work of provincial parliaments and how they interact with the national parliament. CPA UK hopes to welcome a delegation from the Parliament of South Africa to Westminster next year (2026) to continue the engagement. CPA UK will also continue to connect civil society organisations and parliamentarians on issues related to GBV in line with our strategy.



The UK delegation meets the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces



CPA UK

Westminster Hall
London
SW1A 0AA
T: +44 (0)20 7219 5373
F: +44 (0)20 7233 1202
E: cpauk@parliament.uk
W: www.uk-cpa.org

Registered Charity No. 1095118
Registered Company No. 4606846

COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION UK



Report by Jacob Loose
Africa Programme Regional Manager, CPA UK