



CPA BIMR
BRITISH ISLANDS & MEDITERRANEAN REGION

BIMR REGIONAL CONFERENCE, GUERNSEY

DUKE OF RICHMOND HOTEL, ST PETER PORT

20 – 22 MAY 2019





CPA BIMR Conference,
Guernsey | 2019

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Summary

From 20 – 22 May 2019 the 48th British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference took place hosted by CPA Guernsey. The conference was centered on the issue of ‘fake news and policy responses to disinformation’. Hosted at the Duke of Richmond Hotel, the conference gathered together over forty parliamentarians, observers and speakers.

The programme was designed to allow parliamentarians the opportunity to hear from and engage with high level speakers including Dr Victoria Nash, Senior Policy Fellow and Deputy Director of the Oxford Internet Institute at Oxford University, Rita Payne, Journalist and President Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association, Professor Dr Horst Risse, Secretary-General of the German Bundestag, Victoria Schofield, Historian and Contributor to The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs and Doug Wills, Managing Director of The Evening Standard and The Independent.

The plenary sessions were followed by Q&A sessions which allowed parliamentarians the opportunity to further engage and raise points for discussion. The programme incorporated four workshops which covered the central four themes of the conference. These smaller groups provided space for continued discussion, debate and learning.

Participants welcomed the opportunity to hear from such high-level speakers allowing a comprehensive analysis of the conference topic.

Key Highlights

- The conference was officially opened at the Royal Court House of Guernsey with the welcoming address given by the Bailiff of Guernsey Sir Richard Collas, Presiding Officer of the States Assembly followed by Deputy Lyndon Trott, Chair CPA Guernsey Branch.
- The region's AGM was held on the first day of the programme, chaired by Roberta Blackman-Woods, Senior Regional Representative. The new strategy for 2019 – 2024 was agreed. Various CPA International issues were discussed. Minutes of the meeting were circulated and can be accessed [here](#).
- The regional Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee held a productive meeting, where Roberta Blackman-Woods MP (UK) was confirmed as the new CWP Steering Committee Chair.
- A presentation on CPA Secretariat's process of self-assessment for the updated [CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures](#) by Meenakshi Dhar.
- A presentation on CPA UK's work on [Commonwealth Election Observation Missions](#) by Matthew Salik, Deputy Head of International Partnerships. Interest was expressed by delegates for CPA UK to organise EOM Training for parliamentarians. This was successfully organised in July 2019, with more information on the CPA UK website [here](#).
- Delegates were invited to Government House for the closing reception of the conference, with remarks by the Lieutenant-Governor, Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder KBE CB.

Day 1

Plenary Session 1

Fighting Fake News and Digital Information vs Solving Real Problems

Professor Dr Horst Risse

Chair: Deputy Simon Crowcroft, Jersey

Secretary: Lisa Hart, Jersey

Professor Dr Horst Risse, Secretary General, German Bundestag, reminded the conference that in 2016, rape allegations made against a man of a 'southern' appearance in Germany had resulted in widespread violent reprisal attacks against refugees. The rape was later found not to have taken place. The media had ignited Northern Germany's resentment of the country's refugee policy and had created a story where one did not exist. The story was an example of fake news and the effects of disinformation.

Professor Risse further reminded the room that the old-fashioned description of fake news was 'lying'. Quoting Homer/Goethe/Homer Simpson, "It takes two to lie: one to lie and one to listen". The quote was used to highlight that the recipients or those who believe fake news are as complicit as those who create it. If no one believes or is influenced by lies, then they have no impact. Often fake news is personal opinion versus real fact, heightened by the fact that social media allows people to set up fake accounts and create 'false flares'. Several countries, such as Singapore, are now introducing legislation to counter disinformation and its dissemination.

Professor Risse posed arguments about why voters are so easily influenced. One of the key factors was that people's anger is often exploited and anger makes people more susceptible to disinformation. The real question that should be asked is why are the people angry? The recent gilets jaunes movement in France was a direct response to the country's economic situation and the 'remote elite'. The movement brought to the forefront of political conversation how crucial Parliaments are in addressing the public's

fears. When trying to understand fake news, Parliamentarians were encouraged to get to the root of what leads people to believe the lies propagated by fake news.

A delegate raised whether fake news could ever be a positive thing, used perhaps for propaganda purposes and if so, how could it be policed? Professor Risse responded that fighting fake news should not be a question of censorship or punishment but should aim to identify the root cause. The reactions in Germany to the rape story were a consequence of the population believing that a disproportionate amount of money was being spent on refugees compared to the German population's needs.

A delegate drew attention to whether we have lost empathy as a society. The German story and response to immigrants revealed a lack of compassion for refugees and homeless people. It was raised that politicians should try to help redistribute wealth, but also look inwards and tackle the gradual prevalence of lack of empathy in society. On the causes of public anger, discussions touched on Brexit. However, delegates concluded that it remains difficult to address the root cause of all problems.

Delegates weighed the balance between censorship and the proposed policing of social media to guard against hate speech. A delegate raised that there is a role for parliament to play especially when fake news originates from a parliamentary debate. Noting the freedom that parliamentary privilege allows, on the occasion disinformation is shared in a debate, there is a risk that it will enter the mainstream domain. There is limited remedy to protect a citizen or group who might be the victim of this type of fake news, thus, the proposition was put forward for Speakers to have powers to address this. Professor Risse warned that giving the Speaker the authority to investigate whether something was true or not would require great amounts of time. This runs counter to the fact that the main issue with fake news is that it moves so fast and would continue to have an impact whilst the investigation was ongoing.

It was concluded that it is hard to find a swift remedy to fake news and thus a long-term solution which looks into the root causes would be more effective.

Policy Responses to Misinformation: A Public Health Approach to Preserving Democracy

Dr Victoria Nash

Click for Dr Nash's [presentation](#) and [article in The Parliamentarian](#).

Dr Nash opened by sharing that the topic of the conference is very timely. In her role as Senior Policy Fellow and Deputy Director at the Oxford Institute, she assesses the impact of digital media on modern life in an evidence-based and intellectually rigorous manner. Fake news was not, in her opinion, the most useful term to use as often it was not wholly 'fake' and was sometimes an exaggeration rather than complete falsehood.

We are seeing a larger number of sophisticated digital advancements which allow a great amount of manipulation, such as using doctored video clips, to make 'fake news' far more plausible and literally put words into someone's mouth. Dr Nash believes the term disinformation is a better description – 'information designed to intentionally cause public harm or for profit'. However, caution was needed in assuming that fake news is a new problem. What has evolved is the capacity of digital technology to facilitate the spread of what used to be called 'rumours' at an incredible speed.

Dr Nash explained how bot technology is used to create automated scripts that generate and replicate social media content as one of the direct causes that false content is amplified in today's world. The Brexit campaign saw 1% of accounts making up a third of the content spread through political adverts and snapchat filters, Facebook adverts etc. It was stressed that we need to ensure these tools are not used to spread disinformation.

Delegates were made aware of the UK Government's new inventory to monitor the way others are tackling this issue. Furthermore, 43 different countries are currently developing interventions to tackle disinformation. Most are targeting media companies, but the governments' own capacity to inform needs to be enhanced.

There is a strong presumption to protect the freedom of speech, as censorship can expand the reach of the Streisand effect - a phenomenon whereby an attempt to hide, remove or censor a piece of information has the unintended consequence of publicising the information more widely, usually facilitated by the Internet. The nature of technology, including algorithms, makes it hard to identify/personalise information. Balancing a full range of human rights against disinformation requires a multi-disciplinary approach – in essence, five pillars of action:

1. Enhancing transparency of content (source/flagging up issues).
2. Promoting and enhancing media through information literacy programmes.
3. Developing tools to empower users to engage in blocking/reporting.
4. Codes of conduct for journalists, safeguarding diversity and sustainability of media, self-regulation and evaluation of success.
5. A public health/system-wide approach – disrupting the economic value of disinformation, increasing awareness and recognising the need to be more critical. This also includes criminal justice and introducing regulations/measures. Finally, the public health approach covers insight analysis, and looking at the causes and the effects through education.

On the subject of elections, a delegate raised that the Electoral Commission does not verify claims made during elections. Potentially there should be ethical campaigning and only verifiable information should be shared, whilst emotive campaign issues are avoided. It was further suggested that independent stakeholders could assess claims and complaints.

On legislation, a delegate highlighted that it is not always the answer. However, defamation laws are a possible way forward especially in relation to investigative journalism.

Dr Nash reiterated that there needs to be a distinction between disinformation and hate speech. Laws which regulate speech need to be carefully designed, particularly in relation to political speeches. Any regulation of fake news would be difficult and would be argued to curtail democratic rights. However, platforms could allow settings which filter certain news out.

Workshop A: Fighting Fake News and Digital Disinformation Vs Solving Real Problems

Facilitator: Lord Haselhurst, UK

Rapporteur: Joyce Watson AM, Wales

Secretary: Cherie Clifford, Falkland Islands

This Workshop opened with a probing question into who the funders of fake news are. It was discussed that fake news has an impact on democracy and the information that is disseminated throughout society. The effects of fake news were also deemed to go as far as politicians themselves.

In efforts to quell the effects of fake news, it was raised in the discussions that politicians are still at liberty to respond directly to their constituents using official headed documents which may be able to reassure individuals. Electronic communication through email should have improved relationships between politicians and their constituents, however, with the sheer amount that politicians receive it may often have the reverse effect and lead to discontent.

The influence that social media tech companies have on the flow of information was highlighted as one of the key areas which requires greater scrutiny. Delegates discussed the influence of companies such as Facebook and Twitter, particularly whether they should be held accountable for fake news. Scrutiny and accountability of these tech companies would require greater legislative measures to take place. The current landscape allows information to be posted without the legal responsibility of tech companies to check and ensure that the information is factually correct. A suggestion was put forward for financial sanctions and fines to be placed on tech companies if they consistently allowed false information to be published on their platforms.

Whilst there was consensus that tech and social media industries require greater regulation, the question of balance was raised in discussions. How is the balance to be struck between freedom of speech and disinformation?

Returning to the content of fake news, a delegate raised that some fake news stories contained 'some gems of truth', where the root of the story legitimately rests in some area of discontent, frustration or anger around an issue. Information should be adequately analysed for genuine concerns to be addressed.

The seriousness of the issue is reflected by the fact that it touches on many aspects of our lives, our political existence, the climate change situation in respective countries etc. The reality is that you can have fake news in all areas. The EU have adopted sanctions to deal with the regime of cybersecurity, however, the effect of fake news is its speed and it's often already too late as it has already been disseminated. There have been situations when political parties have been destroyed by fake news, emphasising that there need to be legal mechanisms within Parliaments to deal with fake news. Again, it was raised that Speakers should have the power to investigate and correct false news that has its origins in parliamentary debates.

When analysing the level of sanctions that are placed on newspaper and media outlets for printing misinformation, they can be fined up to £1M if something is printed incorrectly. The case was put that equivalent financial sanctions should be in place for social media companies such as Facebook, to ensure rigorous oversight of content on their platforms. Furthermore, when aiming to protect the public from malicious intent, the first thing is to ensure that the social and digital platforms are regulated.

Mainstream media outlets, such as the BBC, should work to improve trust level and politicians should be encouraged to share information on mainstream media channels. It was acknowledged that funding of media outlets often come with political strings attached.

Contrasting experiences were drawn with those from small jurisdictions such as Jersey where there is usually one national radio and TV station. These dominant media outlets are heavily responsible for the content released. In Jersey, the sole newspaper prints once a week and to correct disinformation in a timely manner is challenging. Members have resorted to using social media to correct information which could not be disseminated fast enough through the traditional avenues of print or radio.

Additional discussion points raised included:

- Utilising existing defamation legislation to tackle fake news.
- MPs holding a responsibility to correct or re-inform constituents on issues of fake news.
- Malaysian anti-fake news legislation was passed three months prior to the recent elections. Since its passing, three failed attempts have been made to repeal it. The legislation is not being implemented.
- Whilst laws can be used to provide protection against fake news, with the anonymity associated with much of it – how do you track down perpetrators?
- Traditional referencing should be a dominant mechanism of verifying information sources.
- The death of journalists is a stark reminder to us all, the costs that many pay with their lives for trying to reveal the truth.

Workshop B: Policy Responses to Misinformation

Facilitator: Rhun ap Iwerth AM, Wales

Rapporteur: Heidi Soulsby, Guernsey

Secretary: Emma Terribile, Malta

After introductions by the Facilitator, noting his career as a journalist prior to entering politics, Rhun said that social media has given citizens the ability to produce news and to produce media items themselves. Stressing the importance of being inquisitive and not believing whatever is put in front of us was the responsibility of individuals. It was put to the group whether we need to start criminalising fake news.

The group revisited the issue of parliamentarians themselves being the perpetrators of fake news, with emphasis placed on the responsibility of the Speaker to correct members if there is an awareness that information is inaccurate. Furthermore, members must also be able to substantiate their arguments with proof. The Facilitator responded that some politicians exaggerate their arguments, which should be differentiated from fake news.

The group reiterated that due to the technological advances of today, news and information are shared around in seconds. This is coupled with the anonymity of fake news which makes it even more challenging to tackle. The disruption of fake news to society was commented as happening on an international scale. In hopes to tackle fake news, emphasis was placed on the support that journalism requires in order to keep it relevant.

The Facilitator was in agreement that through publications and online articles, the media is being undermined. Dr Victoria Nash responded to the statements raised by stating:

- The opposition and the media hold politicians to account.
- One must examine the weaknesses which are present in the system.
- There has been a decrease in media pluralism/ownership and support.

The group discussed that Twitter and Facebook are where people get their news today, with many entirely believing the stories they read on social media. Further, there has been a new form of scepticism towards traditional media outlets.

A comparison was made with the issue in smaller jurisdictions where many fake news items are simply spread by rumours. Dr Victoria Nash responded that it would be radical to bar perpetrators from spreading fake news, and it is up to tech platforms to choose what is fake news and what isn't.

A lack of public faith in politicians was highlighted as a key reason behind why many people believe the information shared on social media. It was concluded that politicians need to regain the trust of the electorate. The case was made for utilising the public health model to tackle fake news. This involves identifying the problem, mitigating it and solving it through public measures. It was concluded that it is a long-term process and the government must take full control of the situation.

Day 2

Plenary Session 2

Fake News and the Impact of Quality Journalism in a World of Fake News and Social Media

Rita Payne, Commonwealth Journalists Association

Chair: Tavish Scott MSP, Scotland

Secretary: Al Davies, Wales

Click for Rita's [presentation](#).

Rita shared that throughout her career as a journalist there has been much change, however, fake news is a new phenomenon. Rita reminded the audience that news stories had to previously go through a rigorous process before being published, a far difference to how news is produced today. The growth in the use of IT from almost nothing when she started her career to the role it plays today has been accompanied by the decline in the role of sub-editors. Social media and the use of smart phones has allowed almost anyone with an internet connection to be a publisher of news and information.

Rita played a video of some of President Trump's words about the media, while recalling the use in the UK of the term "enemies of the people" by some media themselves of other individuals and institutions. The reference to President Trump's words was attributed to him being the main propagator of the term 'fake news'.

Rita focused her presentation on how fake news has been used to undermine the media. The growing distrust of journalists has resulted in them being under greater threat than ever, citing Jamal Khashoggi who was killed this year. Rita noted that there had been a rise in the number of journalists killed as a result of their work, including in the Commonwealth.

Rita shared examples of “deep fake” videos to illustrate the sophistication of digital manipulations and the threat they pose. The speed at which information is circulated makes it extremely difficult to disprove.

Expressing concern about some recent legislation being introduced, including in the UK and Singapore, Rita said that these measures could harm free speech much more than act as deterrents to fake news.

On the positive side, Rita applauded the BBC’s “fact checking” Reality Check initiative, which aimed to provide welcome rigour to news stories. Rita also commended the CJA’s new Principles for Media Freedom, noting the support for them from the Commonwealth Secretary-General. Rita hoped that they would receive support at CHOGM in Kigali.

Rita concluded with a plea that the phenomenon of “fake news” should not be used as a justification for measures which damaged hard-won media freedom.

The Importance of Quality Journalism in a World of Fake News and Social Media **Doug Wills, Managing Editor of the Evening Standard**

Doug gave historical examples of fake news stories to demonstrate that the concept is not a new one. However, social media has changed the rules of the game as it is open to every member of the public to create and consume, and its immediacy generates a rapid spread and heightens the appetite for new news. As a result, reality is being distorted.

Doug spoke about a recent UK government independent review into the sustainability of high-quality journalism. This looks specifically at the long term threat to democracy if quality journalism declines in the face of people turning more and more to social media platforms as news sources.

There is concern that funding from central government influences reporting, however, it is imperative to ensure the sustainability of quality journalism. Doug cited schemes such as editorial apprenticeships, private sector investment and partnerships with tech companies.

Doug acknowledged that there is no silver bullet to stop the rise of social media and the decline of quality journalism. Governments and businesses need to work together to support trusted services, with Doug concluding that integrity and respect is the enemy of fake news.

Fake News and No Platforming

Victoria Schofield, Historian and Commentator, Commonwealth Roundtable

Victoria gave an insight into the increasing trend of no platforming, which can be defined as preventing a person holding views regarded as unacceptable or offensive from contributing to a public debate or meeting, especially one at which they had originally been invited to speak.

It was highlighted that if a certain set of views is circumscribed then the result is fake news. Victoria promoted the importance of listening to opposing viewpoints which informs opinion, as without hearing a spectrum of views people are living in an echo-chamber of their own opinions and the result is enforced ignorance.

This is also being played out online, where people are invited to click on links which reinforce their own opinions and are thus not exposed to nuanced information.

Victoria believes that minds should be more robust and encountering ideas you find uncomfortable is a positive thing. Progress was attributed to the very presence of debate, with the citation of the world-renowned Oxford Union where free speech is the objective. Victoria ended by reminding the audience that freedom of speech is a principle of the UN Charter.

Workshop C: Media Freedom/The Importance of Quality Journalism

Facilitator: Martyn Perkins MLA, Isle of Man

Rapporteur: Cruyff Gerard Buckley MLC, St Helena

Secretary: Margaret Neal, Scotland

Many of the delegates in this Workshop spoke about examples within their own jurisdictions which was interesting and informative.

There was acknowledgement from the majority of delegates that social media had made a significant impact on the news industry with so many people looking to social media to hear news.

There was acknowledgment that some journalists under pressure to fill space could use unauthenticated stories which could perpetrate fake news stories. There was also general agreement that there were still many high-quality journalists, despite falling standards. It was felt that more specialist reporters should be encouraged from banking, health, science and other sectors. Overall it was felt that it was the role of the media to entertain, inform and educate people.

The delegates attending the workshop produced a list of recommendations:

- Guidelines to set out good standards – preferably international guidelines.
- A robust accreditation system for journalists.
- Oversight by an association of journalists at national and international level. It was felt that the oversight role would not sit well with politicians for a variety of reasons.
- Newspapers should clearly differentiate factual pieces from opinion pieces to reduce confusion for the public.
- Parliamentary institutions should have a media office to put out accurate and factual information.
- Parliamentary institutions should provide factual parliamentary briefings to the media and public.
- Funding information for articles should be published.
- Authenticity of source of information should be checked before publication.
- Politicians and the public should also value the role of the printed media sources and acknowledge the role they play in democracy.

Workshop D: Fake News and No Platforming

Facilitator: Samantha Sacramento MP, Gibraltar

Rapporteur: Margaret Mitchell MSP, Scotland

Secretary: Jonathan Anderson, Alderney

During the Workshop the following points were raised:

- A rise of the far right within the EU and rise of the far left could be attributed to the increase in fake news and disinformation.
- Fake news at the local level is easier to discredit.
- Opinion pages in the print media can often be hijacked.
- We must look at who are the hidden persuaders driving fake news.
- Fake news is not a new phenomenon.
- Participants were split on “no platforming” and whether voices should be heard or boycotted.
- Many parliamentary committees have twitter accounts which can be used to publish the true facts.
- It was noted that “no platforming” is happening at universities.
- Organisations and individuals need to be responsible for the content distributed on social media.
- People should not be afraid to counter fake news.

Conference Programme

Sunday 19th May 2019

All day:	Arrival of Conference Delegates
10.00-16.30	Registration at Duke of Richmond Hotel
18.30	Informal Welcome Reception hosted by the Presiding Officer & CPA Guernsey Branch Executive Committee Members at Duke of Richmond Hotel
20.00	Free evening for all delegates

Monday 20th May 2019

08.30	Assemble in foyer of Duke of Richmond
08.40	Depart Duke of Richmond Hotel for the Royal Court
09.00	Arrive at the Royal Court House
09.10	Official Opening and welcoming address by the Bailiff of Guernsey Sir Richard Collas, Presiding Officer of the States Assembly followed by Deputy Lyndon Trott, Chair CPA Guernsey Branch
09.30	Family photo - steps of the Royal Court
09.45	Depart Royal Court to return to the Duke of Richmond Hotel
10.00-11.30	Plenary Session 1 (Somerset Suite)
Title:	Fighting Fake News and Digital Information Vs Solving Real Problems
Speaker:	Prof Dr Horst Risse
Title:	Policy Responses to Misinformation: A public health approach to preserving democracy
Speaker:	Dr Victoria Nash
Chair:	Deputy Simon Crowcroft, Jersey
Secretary:	Lisa Hart, Jersey
11.30-11.45	Coffee & Refreshments (Cambridge Suite)

11.45-12.45 **Workshop A: Fighting Fake News and Digital Disinformation Vs Solving Real Problems**

Facilitator: Lord Haselhurst
Rapporteur: Chosen from workshop attendees
Secretary: Cherie Clifford, Falkland Islands

Workshop B: Policy Responses to Misinformation

Facilitator: Rhun Ap Iorwerth, Wales
Rapporteur: Chosen from workshop attendees
Secretary: Emma Terribile, Malta

12.45-14.15 Finger Buffet Lunch (The Conservatory Restaurant & Terrace)
14.15-16.15 BIMR Annual General Meeting (Somerset Suite)
16.15-17.00 Coffee & Refreshments (Cambridge Suite)
17.00-18.30 Time at leisure
18.30 Assemble in Hotel foyer
18.45 Transfer to La Fregate, St Peter Port
19.00 Dinner hosted by the CPA Guernsey Branch
22.00 Coach Transfer to return to the Duke of Richmond Hotel

Tuesday 21st May 2019

08.00-09.00 CWP Steering Committee Breakfast Meeting (Richmond Suite)

09.30-10.45 **Plenary Session 2** (Somerset Suite)

Title: **Fake News and the Impact on Media Freedom**

Speaker: Rita Payne, President Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association

Title: **The Importance of Quality Journalism in a World of Fake News and Social Media**

Speaker: Doug Wills, Managing Editor of the Evening Standard

Title: **Fake News and No Platforming**

Speaker: Victoria Schofield, Historian & Commentator, Commonwealth Roundtable

Chair: Tavish Scott MSP, Scotland

Secretary: Al Davies, Wales

11.00-11:15 Coffee & Refreshments (Cambridge Suite)

11.15-12.45 **Workshop C: Impact of Media Freedom/The Importance of Quality Journalism**

Facilitator: Martyn Perkins, Isle of Man

Rapporteur: Chosen from workshop attendees

Secretary: Margaret Neal, Scotland

Workshop D: Fake News and No Platforming

Facilitator: Samantha Sacramento, Gibraltar

Rapporteur: Chosen from workshop attendees

Secretary: Jonathan Anderson, Alderney

12.45-14.00 Finger Buffet Lunch (The Conservatory Restaurant & Terrace)
Workshop Rapporteurs Preparation/Free Time

14.00-14.30 CPA Benchmarks for Democracy (Somerset Suite)

Presenter: Ms Meenakshi Dhar

14.30-15.00	BIMR Election Observing (Somerset Suite)
Presenter:	Matthew Salik, Deputy Head of International Partnerships, CPA UK
15.00 – 16.00	Reports from Workshops A-D
16.00–16:30	Conference Closing Remarks
Chair:	Deputy Lyndon Trott, CPA Guernsey Branch
16.30-17.00	Coffee & Refreshments (Cambridge Suite)
18.10	Assemble in hotel foyer
18:15	Coach transfer to Government House, Queen’s Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey
18:30	Reception in The Ballroom at Government House
19:30	Coach transfer to La Reunion, Cobo
20:00	Farewell Dinner
22.00	Coach transfer to return to the Duke of Richmond Hotel

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

Day of Departure

Keynote Speakers



Prof Dr Horst Risse
Secretary General, German Bundestag

Studied law at Bonn University. 1979 First State Examination in law.

1979 to 1980 junior research assistant at the Institute of Public Law - comparative law division - of Bonn University. Lecturer for general administrative law at the Federal Academy for Public Administration. Studies in Strasbourg/France.

1980 to 1983 trainee-programme in preparation on the Second State Examination (Referendariat) including an internship in US law firm. 1983 Second State Examination in law.

1983 to 1986 senior research assistant at the Institute for Public International Law of Bonn University. 1987 graduation as Dr. jur.

Joined the executive staff of the Bundesrat (Upper House) in 1986: Since 1988 head of various divisions and secretary of various Bundesrat committees. 2003 to 2005 and 2007 to 2009 head of the secretariat of the Joint Bundestag and Bundesrat Federalism Reform Commissions I and II.

2008 to 2010 Director General (Information and Documentation), 2010 to 2012 Director General (Parliament and MP's) in the Bundestag (Federal Parliament) administration. Since 2013 Secretary General of the Bundestag.

Publications in public international law and constitutional law; co-author of two commentaries to the Basic Law. Member of the Editorial Board "A Global Dialogue on Federalism" (Forum of Federations, Ottawa, Canada; 2002-2009) and of the bi-monthly law journal "Die Öffentliche Verwaltung"; lecturer at the Deutsche Universität für Verwaltungswissenschaften, Speyer, Honorary Professor of the Humboldt-University, Berlin.



Rita Payne
Journalist, Commentator and Media Consultant
President Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists
Association Adviser, Asian Affairs Magazine and
The Democracy Forum

Other positions: member of the editorial board, The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, executive board member, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (2008-2018) and Vice-President, Uniting for Peace.

Rita writes for a range of publications covering politics, the media, culture, travel and tourism. Rita is regularly invited to moderate or speak at public meetings and on TV and radio on topical issues and participate in workshops and seminars in the UK and abroad.

She has moderated key dialogues at the Zee Jaipur Literary Festival in London, Habitat III in Quito, UN World Urban Forums in Rio de Janeiro and Nanjing and chaired sessions at the One World Media Festival and Rotary World Peace Symposium. She was a member of Commonwealth Election Observer Missions to the Solomon Islands and Sierra Leone.

She worked for nearly thirty years at the BBC until 2008. Her last position at the BBC was Asia Editor, BBC World News (TV) with responsibility for three news programmes a day. Before moving to TV Rita was a news editor/producer/presenter at BBC World Service radio. She has been nominated for the BBC Global Reith Awards and Asian Woman of Achievement Awards. She was born in Assam, India.



Dr Victoria Nash
Senior Policy Fellow and Deputy Director Oxford Internet
Institute, Oxford University

In the latter role as Senior Policy Fellow Dr Nash is responsible for leading the department's engagement in digital policy matters. Her particular research interests draw on her background as a political theorist, focusing on the interests and rights of both child and adult Internet users and the challenges of balancing these in Internet governance and regulation.

Recent projects have included an analysis of age verification policies as a tool for balancing the interests of children and adults online, and a review of the risks and harms faced by children online. Dr Nash is currently leading a funded research project examining the concept of the 'algorithmic child' and the data risks posed to children by connected toys and the Internet of Things.

She holds several digital policy advisory roles, including membership of the UK Government's multi-stakeholder UKCCIS Evidence Group, and serves on the Advisory Board of COADEC. She is frequently called on to give expert evidence in UK and EU policy consultations on broader issues such as platform governance.



Doug Wills
Managing Editor, The Evening Standard

Doug Wills is Managing Editor of the Evening Standard and The Independent. His role involves working closely with all editorial executives and dealing daily with circulation, advertising and production directors co-ordinating the complex operation of producing daily newspapers and their editorial digital channels. More than 900,000 copies of the Evening Standard are distributed every afternoon giving a daily readership in print and across its fast-expanding digital platforms of 11 million readers a month.

The Evening Standard is recognised as setting the agenda in politics and business, as well as being first with major news and sports stories. In early 2009 the Evening Standard was bought from Associated Newspapers by Alexander Lebedev. The following year the Lebedev family purchased The Independent. The i newspaper was launched by the group later that year and became widely regarded as an outstanding success having been launched when the sales of other national newspapers were and have continued to decline. The ESI Media group has invested in digital platforms of The Independent which now have more than 100 million unique users.

Doug Wills began his career as a trainee reporter with Thomson Regional Newspapers. He held a number of positions in the provincial press, including deputy editor, before moving to London in 1986 at the time Robert Maxwell was launching the short-lived London Daily News and the London newspaper market was as competitive as it is today.



Victoria Schofield
Historian and Commentator

Victoria Schofield is an historian and commentator on international affairs, with specialist knowledge and love of South Asia, having travelled widely in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. She is acknowledged as one of the leading international experts on the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir and has given lectures on the subject in India, Pakistan, the United States, Europe and Australia.

Schofield is a frequent contributor to BBC World TV, BBC World Service and the other news outlets including Al Jazeera. She has also written primarily on South Asia for British newspapers as well as for *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs* and *Asian Affairs*. Her books include *Kashmir in the Crossfire* (1996), *Kashmir in Conflict: India, Pakistan and the Unending War* (2000, 2002, 2010) and *Afghan Frontier: at the Crossroads of Conflict* (2003, 2010).

Disclaimer

The views in this report are a reflection of the discussions which took place at the BIMR Regional Conference. They do not capture every comment and thought shared and have been drawn together as a summary of the main points of deliberation throughout the conference.

Acknowledgments

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Appendix - Delegate List

Alderney

Mr Steve Roberts

Mr Jonathan Anderson

CPA Head Quarters

Meenakshi Dhar

Emily Davies

Cyprus

Mrs Nektaria Georgiou

Mrs Christiana Solomonidou

Falkland Islands

Mrs Cherie Clifford

Hon Leona Roberts MLA

Hon Dr Barry Elsby MLA

Gibraltar

Hon Edwin Reyes MP

Hon Steven Linares MP

Hon Roy Clinton MP

Hon Samantha Sacramento MP

Guernsey

Deputy Lyndon Trott

Deputy Heidi Soulsby

Deputy Michelle Le Clerc

Deputy Rob Prow

Deputy Rhian Tooley

Isle of Man

Mr Roger Phillips

Mr Rob Callister MHK

Mr Martyn Perkins MHK

Jersey

Connétable Simon Crowcroft

Deputy Judith Martin

Connétable Michael Jackson

Deputy Rob Ward

Mrs Lisa Hart

Malta

Speaker Angelo Farrugia

Ms Emma Terribile

Northern Ireland

Not attending due to non-functioning legislature

Scotland

Claire Baker MSP

Stuart McMillan MSP

Margaret Mitchell MSP

Tavish Scott MSP

Margaret Neal

St Helena

Hon Cruyff Gerard Buckley MLC

United Kingdom

Lord Haselhurst

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Jon Davies

Helen Haywood

Matthew Salik

Seyi Afolabi

Wales

Mr Rhun ap Iorwerth AM

Mr Mohammad Asghar AM

Mrs Joyce Watson AM

Mr David Rowlands AM

Ms Rhianon Passmore AM

Mr Al Davies

Observers

Ms Joy Burch MLA, Australia

Hon Mark Docherty, Canada

Dr Mohd. Hatta Ramli, Malaysia

Mr. Zaharudin Othman, Malaysia

Hon Mwansa Mbulakulima MP, Zambia

Jeffrey Joswa, Zambia

Hon Dwayne Taylor, Turks and Caicos

Hon George Lightbourne, Turks and Caicos

Hon Douglas Parnell, Turks and Caicos

Tracey Parker, Turks and Caicos

Muhammad Khan Bhatti, Pakistan



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