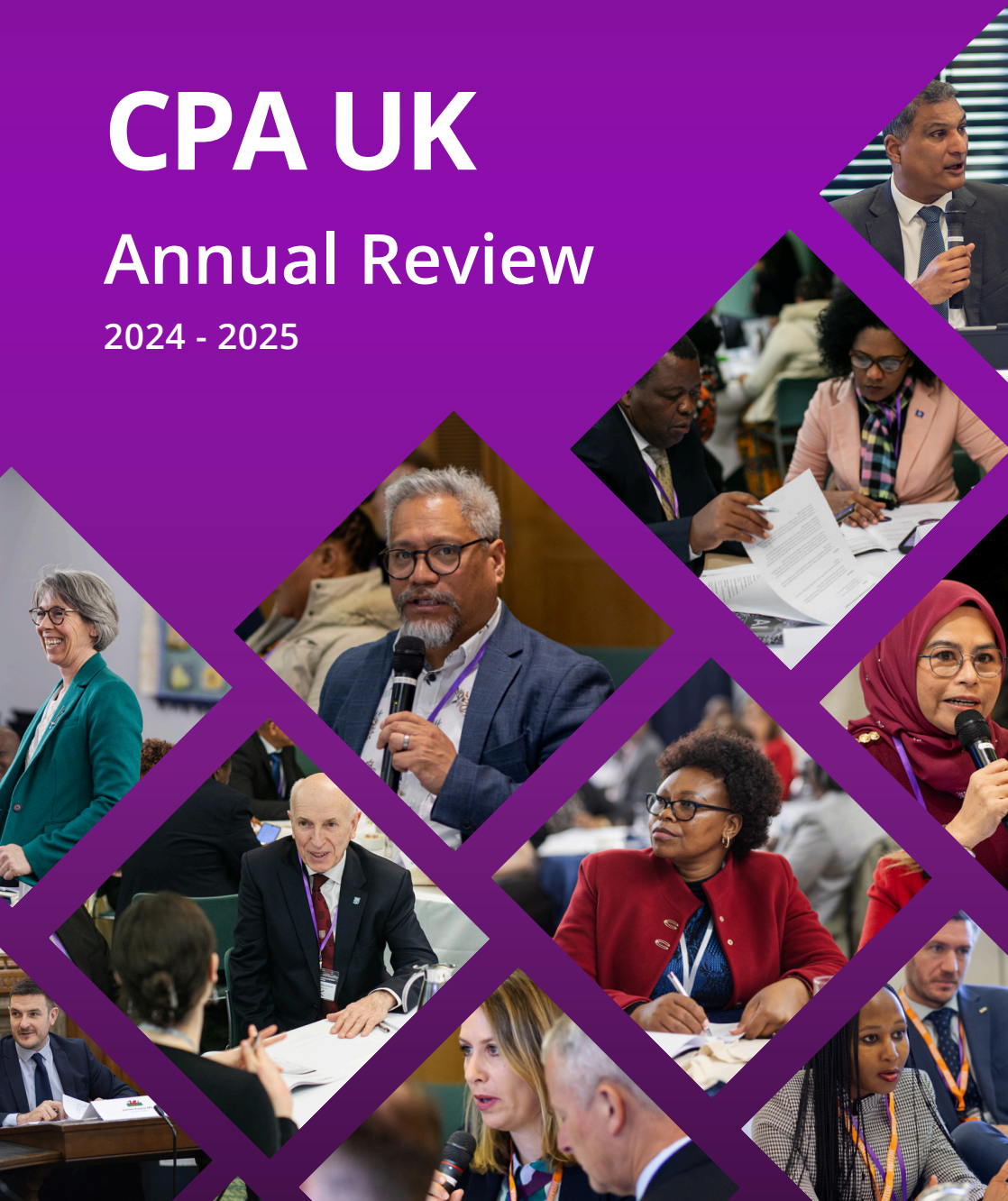


CPA UK

Annual Review

2024 - 2025



Annual Review 2024 - 2025

Introduction

What is CPA UK?	1
Message from our Chair, Kate Osamor MP	2
Message from our Chief Executive, Sarah Dickson OBE	3
Meet our Executive Committee	4

Inter-Parliamentary Engagement

Activity highlights	8
Our work with parliaments	10

The Value of CPA UK's Work

Assessing the UK's General Election	12
Some achievements this year	14
How parliamentarians support us	17

Strategy and Finance

Moving towards our next strategy	18
Finance	19



Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP

Co-President of CPA UK

"Not only are we one large family of nations, but as we celebrate Commonwealth Day today we do so, almost 80 years after the end of the Second World War ... That anniversary is a timely reminder of how we, as diverse Commonwealth countries, fought together to defeat a common enemy and how we worked together afterwards to rebuild our nations, parliaments, and lives."

Commonwealth Day Flag Raising Ceremony, 2025

What is CPA UK?

**We represent the UK Parliament in the Commonwealth.
We bring together parliamentarians to share good practice.
We strengthen parliamentary democracy.**

CPA UK is a branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which was established over 100 years ago. We are the largest branch in the network, and are based in Westminster Hall, the most historic part of the UK Parliament.

How do we work?



We connect UK MPs and Peers with their overseas counterparts

Through us, UK parliamentarians meet others from across the Commonwealth and broaden their existing networks. We create opportunities to build meaningful and lasting connections.



We create opportunities for Westminster MPs and Peers to meet

Through us, UK parliamentarians engage with one another regardless of party or seniority. Parliamentarians from different backgrounds work together and learn from one another.



We organise activities which explore parliamentary processes

Through us, Commonwealth parliamentarians and the professionals who support them explore parliamentary issues via a range of activities in Westminster and overseas. Experts, specialists and academics are involved in our activities.

How to get involved



Get in touch early to apply for activities taking place in Westminster or overseas.



Look out for our upcoming opportunities on the All Party Notice.

Message from our Chair

It's been an extraordinary year at the Palace of Westminster. A general election and a new parliament, and that meant a fresh Executive Committee for CPA UK.

Twenty new members were elected in October, and I became Chair, a position I'm enormously proud to hold. I'm very mindful that I'm picking up the baton from the exceptional Dame Maria Miller. Maria was a driving force behind CPA Headquarters' recent change of status. New government legislation means that it's now a recognised International Organisation which is a clear demonstration of the UK's commitment to the Commonwealth. It's also good news for CPA UK which maintains its status as a UK registered charity.

I've been involved in CPA UK for nearly a decade, and I'm constantly in awe of all it achieves. It works industriously behind the scenes and its tight-knit team always gives 100%. What CPA UK is so great at is bringing together parliamentary professionals across the Commonwealth to share expertise. Its reach and influence are unparalleled. We strive to make our parliaments as strong as they can be, and when the world feels so precarious at times, that's more critical than ever.

I'm very excited about CPA UK's future and honoured to lead it into its next phase.

With all best wishes,



Kate Osamor MP
Chair, CPA UK



Message from our Chief Executive

I was Chief Executive of CPA UK for just six months when the last annual review came out. This time it's been a full year and what a year it's been! For us, last summer's general election meant a new Executive Committee and I've really enjoyed listening to their priorities, ambitions and goals for CPA UK. It also meant that we had the unique experience of organising an Election Assessment Mission to observe the election process here at home. Read about it on page 13.

This annual review will bring you up to date with all the other projects we have been involved in, including our work to strengthen the law around modern slavery. It's resulted in a free, 300-page handbook which you can download via the CPA UK website.

I am so proud of the CPA UK team who are committed, professional, and always deliver programmes of the highest quality whether here at Westminster or in other Commonwealth jurisdictions. Our aim is to bring people together so we can share expertise and learn from one another. So, if you're reading this and want to know more, please do reach out.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

With all best wishes,



Sarah Dickson

Chief Executive, CPA UK



Meet our Executive Committee



Kate Osamor MP

Chair of CPA UK

"Having studied International Development at the University of East London, I leapt at the opportunity to work with CPA UK as soon as I was elected, and I haven't looked back since."



**The Rt Hon. the
Baroness Taylor of
Bolton**

Vice Chair



**Rt Hon. David
Mundell MP**

Treasurer



**Dame Harriett
Baldwin MP**



Gagan Mohindra MP

Vice Chair

"As a second generation Indian, being part of the Commonwealth family has always been a part of who I am. Since my election, I have been fortunate to see the excellent programmes of the CPA UK firsthand, both domestically and internationally. The relationships fostered during the CPA UK work are critical to our global relationships."

Meet our Executive Committee



Sharon Hodgson MP

Vice Chair

"I was honoured to join the CPA and help shape the future of a modern Commonwealth on matters such as women's rights, LGBT+ rights, environmental cooperation and more."



The Rt Hon. Lord Dholakia



Kevin Bonavia MP



Layla Moran MP



Bambos Charalambous MP

'Being of Cypriot heritage I was always aware of the close ties between the UK and the Commonwealth nations. With the current global uncertainty I am keen to play my role in strengthening relations and improving cooperation with our Commonwealth brothers and sisters.'

Meet our Executive Committee



Dame Meg Hillier MP



**The Rt Hon. the
Baroness D'Souza**



Dawn Butler MP



Robin Swann MP

"The Commonwealth has always been an important facet of British society, tying us to Countries around the world. It is important for Northern Ireland to maintain links socially and economically with Nations across the Commonwealth."



Paulette Hamilton MP



Carolyn Harris MP



Adam Jogee MP

Meet our Executive Committee



The Rt Hon. the Baroness Sugg CBE

"I joined CPA UK to contribute to fostering democratic values and effective governance across the Commonwealth, and support CPA UK's important work on gender-based violence and modern slavery."



The Rt Hon. Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

"When I was elected in 1979, membership of the CPA (UK) was voluntary, but joining CPA was one of the first things I did because I believe that by cooperating with other Parliaments we can learn how to make our own democracy better and spread the concept of parliamentary democracy more widely."



The Rt Hon. Lord Kamall

"As someone born in the UK to Guyanese parents and with ancestry from the Indian subcontinent and a father-in-law from Mauritius, I feel an affinity with the Commonwealth."

I hope we can learn the lessons from the past (good and bad) to build a modern Commonwealth of value to member countries and peoples."

Activity highlights

April

2024



Malaysia Speaker of the House of Representatives and Committee Chair Visit to Westminster

May

2024



Youth Parliament of Pakistan Delegation Visit to Westminster



UK Delegation Visit to the Parliament of Lesotho



UK Delegation attend BIMR Conference hosted by St Helena

June

2024



UK Delegation visit the Conference on AI, Disinformation and Parliament in Singapore



Clerks and Officials visit to Parliament of Nigeria

October

2024



Sierra Leone Parliament Delegation Visit to Westminster



Montserrat General Election Observation Mission



Legislative Strengthening Seminars on Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Modern Slavery in Supply Chains

November

2024



UK Delegation to Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, NSW



Tobago House of Assembly Study Visit to Westminster



Parliament of Barbados Visit



Malaysia Young Leaders Visit

December

2024



Shadow Treasurer of Victoria Legislative Assembly Visit to Westminster

Activity highlights

July

2024



**Election Assessment
Mission of the UK
General Election by
CPA BIMR**

August

2024



**Commonwealth Women
Parliamentarians
Workshop in Nigeria**

September

2024



**UK Overseas Territories
Forum on Good
Governance and
Financial Oversight**

January

2025



**Conference on Artificial
Intelligence in Security**



**Commonwealth Women
Parliamentarians
Webinar on Gender
Corrective Mechanisms**

February

2025



**UK Delegation to Parliaments of
Malaysia and Singapore**



Montserrat Post Election Seminar



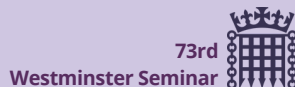
Parliament of Pakistan Whips Visit



Caribbean Clerks Programme

March

2025



**73rd
Westminster Seminar**



**UK Delegation Visit to the
Parliament of Nigeria**



**BIMR Commonwealth Women
Parliamentarians' Conference**



**Cayman Islands Clerk Attachment
to the Scottish Parliament**

Our work with parliaments



"I want to thank CPA for the opportunity ... to learn from each other's countries and to listen from experts in the field."

The AI in Security Conference was delivered by CPA UK in partnership with Chatham House. The three-day programme covered the ways in which developments in artificial intelligence affect parliaments and people alike.



Speaker of the Parliament of Malaysia Visit to Westminster, April 2024.



Parliament of Barbados Visit, November 2024. This was the first visit to Westminster since becoming a republic.



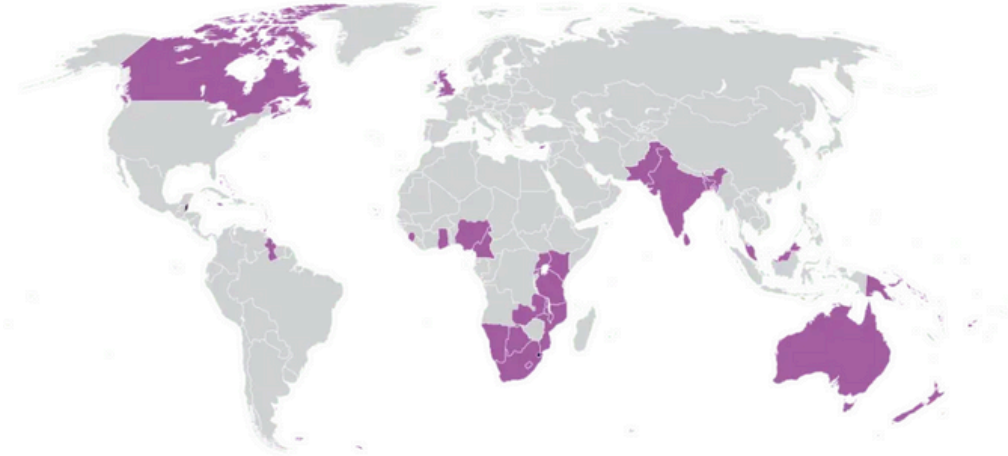
We brought together parliamentarians in Westminster to discuss how to strengthen laws on modern slavery in supply chains and violence against women and girls.

Our work with parliaments

Over 600 delegates from 64 parliaments

Over 600 Members, clerks, and parliamentary officials from 64 parliaments across the Commonwealth, Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and Devolved Legislatures participated in our programmes.

*



105

Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords participated in one or more activities.

44%

Of the participants in our programmes were women.

43

Countries and Territories visited and hosted.

* Map shows all CPA branch members as of 2024 - 2025

Assessing the UK's General Election

For the UK's General Election last year, CPA UK sent eight teams of Election Observers right across the country. Their mission was to independently assess the delivery of the election against international standards.

From 16 jurisdictions across the Commonwealth, 29 parliamentarians travelled to the UK to deliver this Mission. On election day, our team observed and recorded data from 263 polling stations, and in counting centres across eight constituencies.

To read the Mission's observations of the UK General Election and the areas identified for improvement the Final Report is available on our website: www.uk-cpa.org

Election Observers



Alderney



Lesotho



Sri Lanka



Anguilla



Malawi



St Lucia



Grenada



Malta



St Kitts &
Nevis



Guernsey



Mauritius



Turks and
Caicos



Jersey



New South
Wales



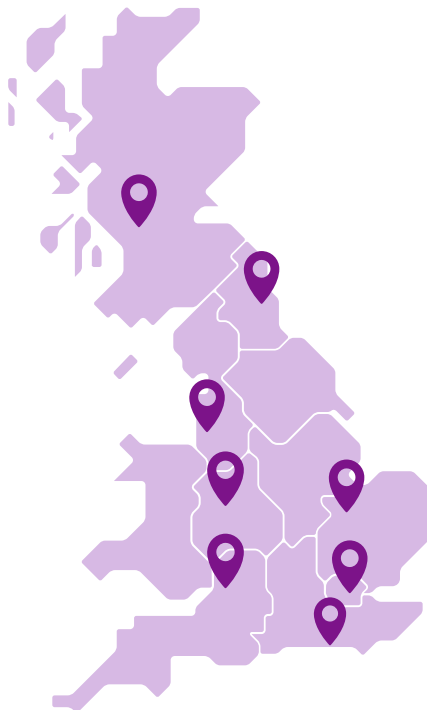
United
Kingdom



Kenya



Seychelles



Assessing the UK's General Election

Observation teams went to Birmingham Ladywood, Brighton Pavilion, Bristol Central, Glasgow East, Ilford South, Liverpool Walton, North Northumberland and North West Cambridgeshire. The eight constituencies covered a broad range of demographics, geographical regions and voting patterns.

Commonwealth parliamentary observers represented a diverse range of jurisdictions and experiences ensuring a variety of perspectives and insights. All observers undertook training before deployment to constituencies and were registered observers with the Electoral Commission.

CPA UK, in its capacity as secretariat for CPA BIMR, has delivered 25 election missions since 2011. With the exception of the UK, all missions have been in the Crown Dependencies and the UK Overseas

Territories. For every Mission, CPA UK recruits a diverse team of parliamentarians, staff, and election experts to conduct independent observations of electoral processes.



Observers and Election Analysts for the EAM 2024

Achievements this year

Building networks

Parliamentarians from all around the Commonwealth say they benefit from our unique network and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Through us, expertise and knowledge are shared. In a recent House of Lords debate, Lord Purvis of Tweed drew attention to how we help create vital trade opportunities by bringing people together.



"I and other parliamentary colleagues visited Singapore and Malaysia through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association ... Human-to-human discussion is very important when it comes to facilitating trade and soft power, and we should be doing more of it."

Lord Purvis of Tweed, House of Lords Debate, March 2025

Working on legislative themes

In accordance with the Commonwealth Charter, we are committed to the promotion and protection of Human Rights. Our seminar on strengthening laws around modern slavery and gender-based violence led to parliamentarians taking collective action. They signed an open letter urging leaders at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa to take firmer action on forced labour and gender equality. Parliamentarians from Nigeria, The Gambia, Kenya, Malawi and St Helena have continued to push for change in these areas.



"The reality we face is that we have introduced legislation across the world and yet the number of people in slavery is increasing. That is why we must redouble our efforts."

The Rt Hon. The Baroness May of Maidenhead
Legislative Strengthening Seminar

Achievements this year

Modern slavery handbook

Following an intensive period of collaboration with stakeholders CPA UK published a new handbook for parliamentarians and policy makers on Legislating Against Modern Slavery in Supply Chains. It is an invaluable resource drawing on the expertise of over 50 authors from across the Commonwealth.

Observing elections

Our election work has led to lasting change in UK Overseas Territories Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Caymans Islands. To ensure elections are fair, transparent and accountable, these jurisdictions have implemented recommendations made by CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region observer missions arranged by CPA UK.



Download the e-handbook for free from our website.



Election Observers, comprised of CPA UK staff and an international delegation, in Montserrat for the Election Observation Mission, 2024

Achievements this year

Our partnerships

Our partnerships and collaborations with FCDO, Non-Governmental Organisations, respected thinktanks and international academics place us firmly on the global stage. One example is our AI in Security Workshop held in January 2025 in partnership with Chatham House, with the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change as a contributor.

At a session she chaired on AI and elections, Dawn Butler MP set out the relevance of discussions:



"Though we are familiar with the risks of AI-generated disinformation, it was important to have an open and candid discussion about the depths to which AI-generated content can impact the decisions made by individual voters."

Dawn Butler MP, AI in Security Conference

Helping to achieve status change for CPA

Last year the new UK Government brought forward legislation to change the status of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This was enacted in January 2025 which means it is now recognised as an international organisation, rather than a UK charity.

CPA UK was actively involved in this change. Our previous Executive Committee, led by its then Chair Rt Hon. Dame Maria Miller, was instrumental in advocating for it. Members introduced legislation from the back benches and lobbied the UK Government, speaking in debates to support the change.

How parliamentarians support us

We have cross-party support from across both Houses of Parliament. We appreciate the continuous backing of both the Speaker of the House of Commons, Right Hon. Sir Lindsey Hoyle MP and the Lord Speaker, Rt Hon. Lord McFall of Alcluith. Both generously give their time to support us in the UK Parliament and take a keen interest in our work to strengthen democracy across the Commonwealth.



Mr Speaker delivers his welcome address at the 73rd Westminster Seminar, next to Helen Haywood, Deputy Chief Executive of CPA UK.

Over the last year, Members of both Houses of Parliament have spoken publicly about working with CPA UK:



"CPA UK in particular is a good way of bringing together colleagues from across the House..... It has been a pleasure to attend many events over the years, both overseas and here, with colleagues from across the House."

The Rt Hon David Mundell, MP
House of Commons Debate, 18th December 2024

Moving towards our next strategy

To help us create our new strategy for 2026-2031 and to guide our continued development as an organisation, two academics are researching the way we work as well as our unique strengths.

As part of the Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme, Dr Alex Prior from London South Bank University and Dr Louise Thompson from the University of Manchester have carried out rigorous and independent research over the course of a year. Their work is funded by the University of Manchester's Impact Acceleration Award and London South Bank University.

They examined our current strategy (2019-2025) and concluded that relationship building is a key pillar of our work. They also identified



specific areas for us to develop so we can stand out in an increasingly crowded and resource-intensive field. Their research focused on:

1. Institutional strengths and identity
2. A balanced and flexible approach to supporting parliaments
3. Reflecting critically on themes and objectives
4. Acknowledging, realising, and maximising impact

Full findings will be available on the CPA UK website, alongside an Impact Toolkit which will help us measure, evaluate and understand our work more fully.

Access our website at www.cpa-uk.org

Finance

CPA UK had an income of £3,184,622. This included an annual grant in-aid payment of £2,299,232 from the UK Parliament (70% from the House of Commons and 30% from the House of Lords).

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office provided funding for two projects; the UK Overseas Territories Project which received £584,772 and the Project on Addressing Gender-Based Violence & Modern Slavery which received £228,379.

This is a summary of our financial activities, extracted from the audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025.

Copies of the full Annual Reports and Accounts are available on the CPA UK website: www.uk-cpa.org

CPA UK

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