



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY



A HISTORY IN COMMON, A FUTURE IN PROGRESS

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The Royal Commonwealth Society is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world.

Founded in 1868, the Society is constituted by Royal Charter (amended 2013) and as a charity. It is non-partisan, is independent of governments and is supported solely by public generosity.

The Society engages with its youth, civil society, business and governmental networks to address issues that matter to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Its primary focus is the promotion of young people throughout the Commonwealth.

RCS ACTIVITY



CAMPAIGNS

In partnership with other organisations, the RCS campaigns on behalf of Commonwealth citizens to promote human rights and sustainable development. The Society has recently campaigned to end early and forced marriage, to secure equal rights for marginalised groups and to highlight environmental issues in Commonwealth countries.



YOUTH

Recognising the demographic importance and potential of young people in the Commonwealth, the RCS promotes interchange, skill-sharing and young peoples' voice and leadership around the world. It creates opportunities for youth through projects such as the Commonwealth Essay Competition and Commonwealth youth leadership programmes.





COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The Society acts as the Secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Commonwealth, and the Council of Commonwealth Societies (CCS). It acts as a focal point for the London-based diplomatic community to promote dialogue around Commonwealth values.



EVENTS

The RCS runs events and round tables across the Commonwealth in support of policy development and advocacy campaigns. It organises the biggest celebration of the Commonwealth and its values, each year, in a week of engaging events, the foremost of which is the multi-faith Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster Abbey.



RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

The RCS regularly produces, carefully researched and thought-provoking publications such as: The Commonwealth Conversation (2009); Trading Places, the 'Commonwealth Effect' Revisited (2010); Because You're a Girl: Growing up in the Commonwealth (2011); Commonwealth Compared 2013: Setting the Scene (2013)

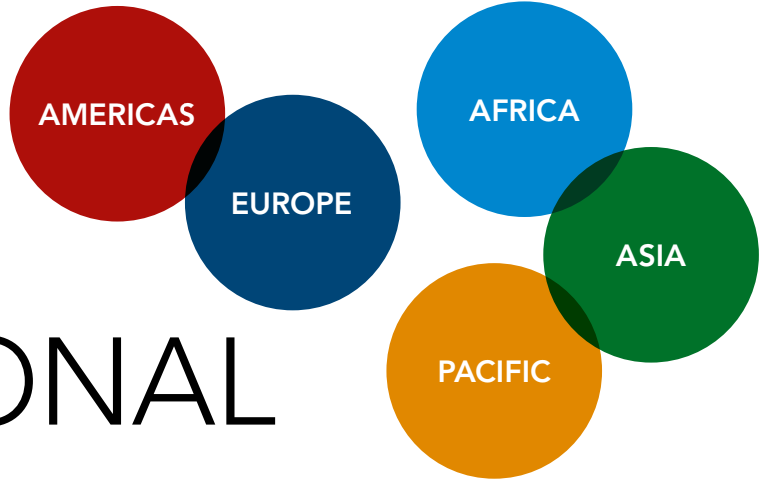


OUR WORK

Operating at the forefront of Commonwealth affairs, the Society works to improve the lives and prospects of individuals by:

- **Acting as a champion** to identify areas for positive social, environmental and economic change
- **Developing dialogue** and building partnerships with organisations for the well-being and prosperity of individuals
- **Celebrating cultural differences** and building on the shared values and aspirations that continue to unite citizens across the Commonwealth
- **Empowering young people** and providing a pan-Commonwealth framework for inspirational youth leadership programmes





INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

The RCS engages with thousands of Commonwealth citizens and over 70 self-governing RCS branches and affiliated societies, throughout and beyond the Commonwealth.

The network is a valuable source of contacts, information, mutual

support and fellowship, connecting our supporters across civil society, government and business.

Engagement with our regional representatives enables relationships to develop at local and international levels.

