



UK
Parliament

COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION UK



ANNUAL REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019-20

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

“Some of the best work I’ve done as an MP is with the CPA UK working with legislators in East Africa and Asia-Pacific to tackle global human trafficking.”

- Darren Jones MP

CPA UK

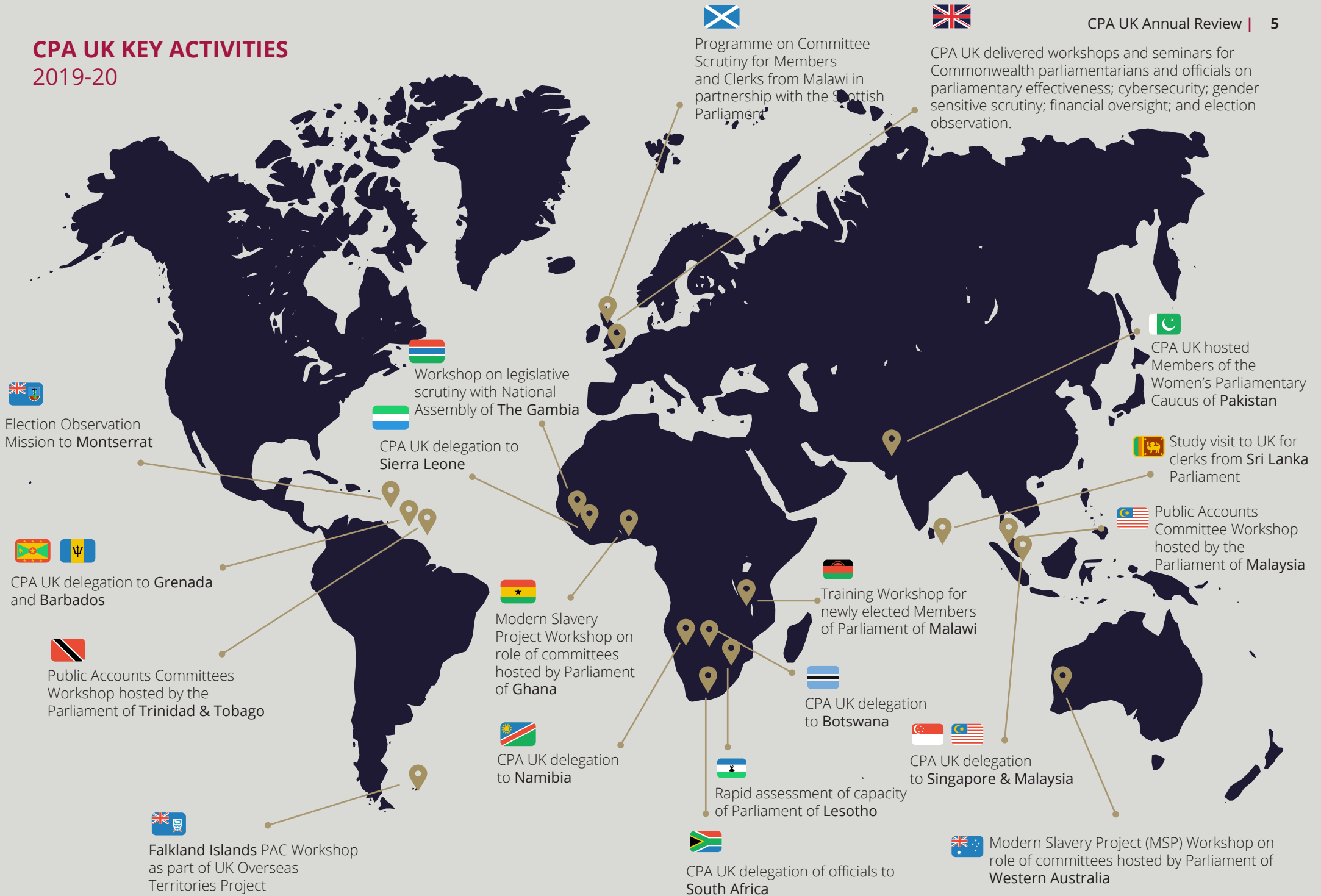
Advancing parliamentary democracy from the heart of Westminster

COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
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CPA UK KEY ACTIVITIES 2019-20



ABOUT CPA UK

CPA UK'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To strengthen parliamentary democracy
2. To link Westminster with the Commonwealth
3. To set and demonstrate high performance standards

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is the professional association of all Commonwealth parliamentarians, an active network of over 17,000 parliamentarians from 185 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures.

CPA UK is located in and funded by the UK Parliament. We support and strengthen parliamentary democracy throughout the Commonwealth by bringing together UK and Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials to share knowledge through peer to peer learning.

We focus on key issues including **women in parliament, modern slavery, financial oversight, security** and **trade**.

For more information, please visit our website at www.uk-cpa.org or our Twitter account: @CPA_UK.

VISION

Our vision is to help facilitate inclusive, representative and transparent Commonwealth Parliaments, fully effective in enforcing the accountability of the executive and representing the interests and concerns of the electorate.

PURPOSE

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

CPA UK is the secretariat for the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region. In national and regional capacities, we organise activities in support of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network. We also work to strengthen the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees in its core objectives.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In recent years, the UK political landscape has been far from uneventful and 2019-20 was no exception. The year saw a snap election, decisive movement on Brexit and ended with Parliament going into 'lockdown' as a result of COVID-19. Within this context, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) has managed to successfully deliver a valuable and diverse programme of activities, which enabled parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth to share knowledge and learn from each other. These opportunities to improve parliamentary oversight, scrutiny and representation are as important as ever given the challenges we face globally.

As Chair of the Executive Committee for much of the year, it has been a privilege to share in the successes. From workshops and seminars on important and timely subjects such as cybersecurity, modern slavery, gender sensitive scrutiny and public financial oversight to engagements with South Africa, Pakistan, the Gambia and elsewhere, the year has offered up an array of significant highlights.

I wish to thank the staff of CPA UK, led by Chief Executive Jon Davies, for delivering everything asked of them in such a turbulent year, with enormous professionalism as always. I also wish to thank my parliamentary colleagues who have continued to demonstrate their commitment to the work of CPA UK with their counterparts in the Commonwealth, with the collective aim of strengthening parliamentary democracy. I would particularly like to pay tribute to my predecessor as Chair, James Duddridge MP, and to our former Treasurer Roberta Blackman-Woods. And to those colleagues yet to work with us, I'd urge you to get in touch to find out how you can get involved.

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP
Chair, CPA UK Executive Committee



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The work of CPA UK described in this Review depends heavily on three groups of people.

First, and most immediately, the CPA UK team. They have responded brilliantly in another challenging year for Westminster. They showed great flexibility to deliver high-quality activities, including a Westminster Seminar amid a General Election campaign to sharing content virtually when our Public Accounts Committees showpiece was made impossible at the last moment by Covid-19. Thank you all.

Second, the many others at Westminster who join in with what we do, share their learning and learn from others. MPs and Members of the Lords, of course, not least our Executive Committee. But also so many other brilliant people who work in the UK Parliament. Thank you too.

Last but not least, our many other partners. Thanks in particular to the UK Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office for their support for our work on Modern Slavery, with the Overseas Territories and with Public Accounts Committees. Thanks to our fellow Branches in the CPA's British Islands and Mediterranean Region for another great year of collaboration. And thanks to the dozens of other Commonwealth Parliaments with whom we have loved working this year.

Jon Davies

Chief Executive, CPA UK



PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING

CPA UK's core work is to build relationships with parliaments across the Commonwealth and thus strengthen parliamentary democracy. This is achieved through a programme of parliamentary strengthening and other bilateral and thematic activities. CPA UK undertakes work at the request of other parliaments around the Commonwealth, and our tailored programmes include individual country programmes, and large-scale projects and activities which bring together Commonwealth parliamentarians and clerks.



WESTMINSTER SEMINAR

For almost 70 years, CPA UK has been running a Seminar on Effective Parliaments. Past participants have gone on to become Premiers, Presidents, Vice Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers, and today more than 20 current Speakers of Parliaments have attended one of the Seminars. CPA UK's Westminster Seminar Series provides an opportunity for Parliamentarians and clerks from across the Commonwealth to explore parliamentary democracy, practice and procedure and to share experiences and challenges faced in their parliamentary work.

The 68th seminar took place from Monday 25 November – Friday 29 November 2019, shortly after an election was called in the UK. The content and structure adopted an experience-based approach, drawing on the perspectives of contributors and participants to stimulate discussion and learning on parliamentary best practice.

Tony Grew (creator of Parlyapp) and Lord Boateng started the week off with a vigorous debate on the events that had taken place within Westminster over the preceding months. The discussion addressed the overarching theme of Brexit which led to the change of Prime Minister and the 2019 election. This opened up the question of populism and its influence on democracy. Topics explored also included the rise of identity politics and the influence it has on dividing not only parliament but the country.

Another highlight for our delegates was Dame Margaret Hodge who discussed her previous role as Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, her work against international tax avoidance, and the many ways that a parliamentarian can have an impact.

IN FOCUS: THE GAMBIA

Through a targeted and coherent programme of activities relying on peer-to-peer learning CPA UK has, since 2017, been supporting The Gambia's National Assembly reform process following the surprise defeat of Yahya Jammeh in the 2017 presidential elections and subsequent parliamentary elections.

The two-year technical assistance programme (2017-2019) provided an evaluation of the National Assembly which helped identify milestones, objectives and a roadmap for delivering the National Assembly's ambitious reform agenda. This year, CPA UK successfully supported the review of the Assembly's Standing Orders, and provided a series of trainings on the new set of Standing Orders, and other capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing the scrutiny skills of Members, 85% of which were new to political life when elected in 2017.

The review, consultation process and subsequent adoption of the new Standing Orders which took place from August 2018 until September 2019 when the new Standing Orders were adopted, constituted a milestone in the history of the National Assembly, an institution previously widely perceived as archaic and ineffective. The backbone of the change that would enable effective parliamentary scrutiny by the National Assembly Members was the provision of increased powers and adequate timetables to undertake evidence-based scrutiny. This included a nine-day committee stage for detailed scrutiny, where previously bills would usually be considered and voted on by the Assembly within one day. Further changes related to the selection and process to challenge the Speaker's decisions. All those elements are the backbone of efficient parliamentary oversight.

CPA UK is proud to have supported, alongside colleagues from the Northern Ireland Assembly, in the redraft of the Standing Orders, and the delivery of capacity building trainings to empower members to understand the parameters for undertaking effective scrutiny.

ELECTIONS

As part of its commitment to strengthening democracy and good governance, CPA UK regularly carries out and supports election missions across the Commonwealth in its role as secretariat for CPA's British Islands and Mediterranean Region. Election observance expresses the Commonwealth's interest and concern in promoting democratic elections within its wider policy of support for democracy, the rule of law and human rights. CPA UK is committed to ensuring a professional approach based on observation of all aspects of the electoral process.



MONTSERRAT ELECTIONS

As part of its commitment to strengthening democracy and good governance, CPA UK has been carrying out short term Election Observation Missions to UK Overseas Territories since 2011. This forms a key part of CPA UK's role as secretariat for the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region, currently the only organisation providing Election Observation Missions and Election Assessments to UK Overseas Territories.

These missions are an important democracy strengthening tool, providing objective assessments of election credibility, and setting out a roadmap for increased inclusivity, representation and transparency of electoral processes.

From 11-20 November 2019, The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association BIMR deployed a group of international observers to carry out an independent Election Observation to the Montserrat 2019 General Election. This was the second time observers had been invited to Montserrat, the previous Mission having taken place in September 2014.

While the Mission highlighted that the election - which saw the Movement for Change and Prosperity (MCAP) take office - was "exemplarily administered with the highest level of transparency, far beyond legal requirements", 17 recommendations were made to improve elections going forward, some echoing the ones previously made by those who undertook the assessment of the 2014 Legislative Assembly elections.

Recommendations included: extending international conventions, for example the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

against Women (CEDAW), to Montserrat; ending the practice of printing a number on both the ballot paper and the counterfoil which violates the principle of voter's secrecy; protecting the right to stand for election for Montserratians by birth and Montserratians by naturalisation as the electoral law currently differentiates between the two; as well as reviving the nascent Electoral Reform Commission.

Hon. Julian Robinson MP stated ahead of the launch of the Mission's report:

"The elections in Montserrat were free, fair and conducted professionally by the electoral authorities.

We do believe there are areas such as the legal framework, which need to be strengthened and improved to ensure adherence to international obligations and standards for democratic elections."

While the decision to take these recommendations forward lies with the relevant authorities and the people of Montserrat, the report produced by the Mission sets out a valuable roadmap towards improved compliance of the legal and electoral framework of Montserrat to international standards and practices, all of which contribute to improving democratic representation and inclusion.



WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

A key focus of CPA UK's work is achieving representative democracies by helping women promote themselves in parliaments across the Commonwealth and develop the skills they need to be fully effective and to deliver gender sensitive governance. CPA UK continues to develop programmes and projects to promote the role of women parliamentarians across the Commonwealth.



GENDER SENSITIVE SCRUTINY WORKSHOP

CPA UK facilitated the Westminster Workshop on Gender Sensitive Scrutiny in June 2019 where 40 Parliamentarians from 25 legislatures met to discuss how budgets, policies and legislation impact women and men differently.

CPA UK drew on best practice from across the Commonwealth to design a programme to enable parliamentarians to reflect on their own roles, responsibilities and opportunities, and develop skills to improve their capacity in the crucial functions of scrutiny and oversight with a gender perspective.

All delegates were asked to reflect on their contexts and formulate pledges setting out how they would support existing gender sensitive scrutiny frameworks in their own parliaments or take forward new scrutiny initiatives, from raising a question in the chamber to engaging with civil society. A key area of interest was in conducting gender sensitive parliament audits which the UK Parliament undertook in 2018.



WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS OF PAKISTAN

Since 2012, CPA UK has been working with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus from the National Assembly of Pakistan, on both a multilateral and bilateral level. This engagement seeks to deepen women's participation in public life and create a community of informed parliamentarians who feel empowered to raise issues of gender representation and equality in their parliaments.

CPA UK hosted Members of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Pakistan in January 2020 for a programme focused on Women and Gender in Legislation, Scrutiny, and Oversight.

The Secretary of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Hon. Munaza Hassan MNA, led the delegation of eight Members of the National Assembly and five Members from Provincial Assemblies. Newly elected Chair of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan MNA also participated in the programme.

The programme explored issues relating to women and gender in different representative bodies including the UK Parliament, the Greater London Assembly, a London Borough Council, and a London constituency. In addition to introducing delegates to the UK Parliament and Westminster committee system, speakers – including parliamentarians, party candidates, councillors, and academics – discussed gender-sensitive scrutiny, legislation to improve gender equality, and diversity and inclusion.

The representatives were also hosted by the former PM Theresa May who

commended the delegation's commitment to strengthening women's voices in politics in Pakistan despite the many and diverse challenges they face.

At the end of the programme delegates shared ways in which they would champion changes in their respective legislatures. After observing an evidence session hosted by a Lords committee, delegates from the Provincial Assemblies resolved to recommend to their Speakers that committees invite external experts to committee sessions for the first time, ensuring parliamentarians benefit from diverse views and evidence.

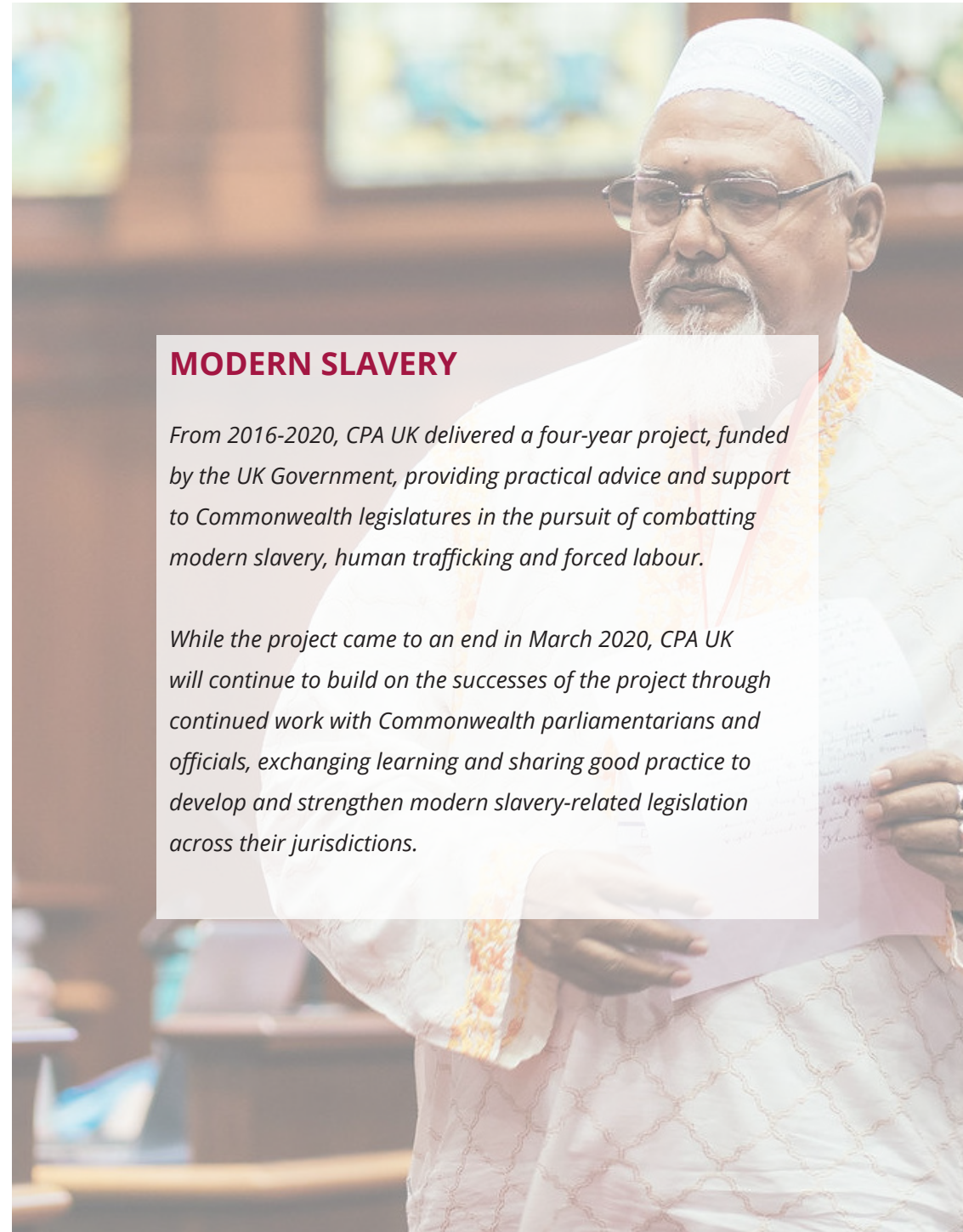
Delegates also learnt about different approaches to mainstreaming gender-sensitive scrutiny, such as the Equality Impact Assessments undertaken in Scotland, which could serve as a model for their own scrutiny work.



MODERN SLAVERY

From 2016-2020, CPA UK delivered a four-year project, funded by the UK Government, providing practical advice and support to Commonwealth legislatures in the pursuit of combatting modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour.

While the project came to an end in March 2020, CPA UK will continue to build on the successes of the project through continued work with Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials, exchanging learning and sharing good practice to develop and strengthen modern slavery-related legislation across their jurisdictions.





REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON ROLE OF COMMITTEES

Parliamentarians from Asia-Pacific and Africa participated in regional workshops organised by CPA UK, in partnership with the Parliament of Western Australia and the Parliament of Ghana.

The workshops were an opportunity for parliamentarians to exchange ideas around their role in gathering evidence and research; scrutinising anti-trafficking policy and legislation; and oversight of the implementation of anti-trafficking laws. Participants were at the forefront of strengthening legislation and raising awareness of these issues at local, national and international level.

The workshops highlighted the issues of football trafficking and orphanage trafficking, with MPs holding public inquiries looking into these practices and how they could address them going forward.



IN FOCUS: UGANDA

Since 2017, through the Modern Slavery Project, CPA UK has partnered with Ugandan parliamentarians to review and strengthen anti-slavery and anti-trafficking legislation.

Led by Hon. Herbert Edmund Ariko MP, the parliamentarians are seeking to introduce a Bill that will in particular target labour export companies that are trafficking Ugandans into exploitative labour and commercial sexual exploitation.

Following the first reading of the Anti-Slavery Bill in the Ugandan Parliament in January 2019, MPs sought input from civil society groups to ensure the legislation meets the challenges Uganda faces with regards to modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour.

CPA UK - along with the movers of the bill - organised the Multi-stakeholder Consultation Workshop, which took place in Kampala from 13-16 May 2019. This was an opportunity to bring together key actors in the fight against modern slavery, including law enforcement, government agencies, NGOs and civil society to review and strengthen the legislation.

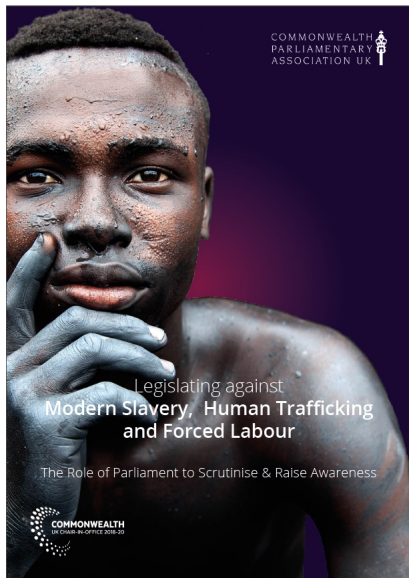
In March 2020, CPA UK then hosted a series of meetings at the UK Parliament between the Ugandan legislative drafters and an expert lawyer to support the draft of new anti-slavery legislation.

Uganda MPs then embarked on a national awareness raising and sensitisation campaign as they seek to introduce the legislation.

Hon. Hebert Edmund Ariko MP, Parliament of Uganda:

"As mover of the Anti-Slavery Bill in Uganda, I don't take the support from the CPA UK Modern Slavery Project for granted. We are thankful and very appreciative for the passion and commitment the team continues to give us so as to ensure that Uganda has a comprehensive and effective law on modern slavery."

LAUNCH OF e-HANDBOOK



As part of the Modern Slavery Project, CPA UK launched the second volume of the *e-Handbook on Legislating against Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking & Forced Labour*, which is a comprehensive resource for parliamentarians and parliamentary officials on legislating effectively against modern slavery-related crimes.

The first volume, published in 2018, looked in detail at the process of reviewing and strengthening legislation from gaining cross-party support to drafting a bill itself. Urmila Bhoola, UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (2014-2020), described it as “the most comprehensive, insightful and practical guide that exists in its field.”

Recognising that modern slavery-related crimes are ever evolving - and with growing global awareness - CPA UK has produced a second volume of the e-Handbook titled *Legislating against Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking & Forced Labour: The Role of Parliament to Scrutinise and Raise Awareness*, which takes into account emerging trends in addressing modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour. The resource covers themes such as good practice for parliamentary committees and evidence hearings; the importance of raising awareness in parliament and constituencies; and the role of the media in combatting these heinous crimes.

“Modern slavery hides in plain sight in our towns and cities, our fields and factories and it reaches into every corner of our lives – in the clothes we wear, the food we eat and the services we pay for. Yet for many years it seldom captured the world’s attention which allowed those who trade in human misery to quietly continue their work.”

*- Rt Hon. Theresa May MP,
Foreword to the e-Handbook*

Download the e-Handbook at www.uk-cpa.org/modernslavery

“The Modern Slavery Project has been ground-breaking in that it has had the significant impact of educating, supporting and transforming not only the parliamentarians involved in the Project but the lives of millions of constituents across the world who are being protected from the atrocity of modern slavery. Its import will be evident for generations to come.”

R. Evon Idahosa, Human Rights Lawyer and Founder of Pathfinders Justice Initiative



“The CPA UK Modern Slavery Project provided an effective forum for Commonwealth countries to share good practice to combat modern slavery. Walk Free has participated in several regional workshops and provided content for the e-Handbooks. We believe that the CPA project played an essential role – and with only 10 years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is important that opportunities to foster a greater understanding of how national legislation can facilitate the achievement of SDG 8.7 are continually strengthened.”

Katharine Bryant, Minderoo Foundation

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES

Parliaments have a role in scrutinising the work of the government, particularly through Select Committees. Public Accounts Committees scrutinise the financial expenditure of the government and taxpayer's money, ensuring transparency and accountability within Government, and making recommendations to ensure taxpayers receive best value for money on government spending. Working with oversight committees such as Public Accounts Committees is one of the key ways CPA UK supports financial scrutiny, ensuring members have the technical expertise and knowledge to hold governments to account on behalf of their citizens. CPA UK collaborates closely with the UK Public Accounts Committee to ensure current expertise and experience underpins its extensive body of work with similar committees across the Commonwealth.



WORKING WITH THE UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Over the last four years, CPA UK has been partnering with UK Overseas Territories to strengthen oversight of public finances, working closely with Public Accounts Committees through technical assistance, training and mentoring culminating in CPA UK delivering a third forum for all territories to share knowledge gained over the last four years, reflect on ongoing challenges and look for ways to continue building skills.

CPA UK has supported committees to have more and better capacity to achieve scrutiny and oversight of public finances. It has also led to increased prioritisation of financial issues amongst governing bodies and legislatures. In some Overseas Territories, it has also helped Public Accounts Committees hold their first inquiries after a significant time, introduce better quality processes and systems, or produce new reports and recommendations for governments.

Feedback from Overseas Territories has shown key areas where there has been strengthened capacity including improved institutional capacity and confidence, increased individual/staff capacity, higher standards incorporated and applied higher (political) prioritisation of the issue of scrutiny of public finances.



IN FOCUS: ANGUILLA

One highlight of our work with Overseas Territories has been in Anguilla where the Public Accounts Committee had struggled to run inquiries and finalise reports as they did not have dedicated staff.

CPA UK supported the committee through a long-term secondment of a clerk from the House of Commons. As a result, the committee finalised three reports and was well prepared to host evidence sessions and guidance was successfully provided on witness preparation and questioning strategies ahead of the evidence sessions. Publishing formal committee minutes on the government website was noticed by legislators and those in governing positions.

This has led to the Assembly in Anguilla budgeting to have a permanent resource to support the Public Accounts Committees to undertake more detailed scrutiny to continue providing oversight in Anguilla to improve transparency and accountability in the Territory.

Hon. Palmavon Webster MHA, PAC Chair, Anguilla:

“CPA UK has provided short term attachments by an experienced Public Accounts Committee clerk at critical points in the work programme of the Committee. The periodic short term attachments have allowed the Committee to hold evidence sessions, to produce a report and learn key skills, such as inquiry management and consensus building.”



REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Funded by the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy, a UK Government-funded programme, CPA UK delivered a series of Regional Workshops supporting Public Accounts Committees including one for Asian legislatures in August 2019 and one for Caribbean parliamentarians in January 2020.

These Workshops explored the key current challenges faced by Public Account Committees across the Commonwealth, enabling the exchange of ideas and expertise on how these committees can increase their efficiency and effectiveness in scrutinising public expenditure and to promote good governance and best practice.

The programme for each of the Regional Workshops was based on the results of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees Biennial Survey which delegates completed before the Workshop. This survey asked committees to rate themselves against a set of principles and helped CPA UK to create content which was tailored to the specific needs and challenges of the region.

While each Regional Workshop explored a diverse range of themes, tailored to their context, some common topics emerged, such as: public engagement and working with the media; effective questioning techniques; building consensus; and blockers and enablers for Public Accounts Committee work.

IN FOCUS: THE MALDIVES

The Chair and Clerk of the Public Accounts Committee of the Maldives were able to see how other committees approached their work and reflect on their own work. Since the workshop, they have been able to implement a number of changes including an increased emphasis on the importance of making consensual decisions and 94% of conclusions have now been reached on this basis.

A closer working relationship with the Auditor General has led to increased cooperation with the clerks on more detailed briefings so members are more up to date on the issues that matter most.

The committee has been able to increase the profile of their work. All hearings, except one, have been conducted in public where any citizen could see the work of the committee.

Committee members have been honing in on their questioning techniques. They have focused on more effective approaches including having clear, short, single, open and relevant questions. At the same time, they have divided the committee into four subcommittees so members can focus on core areas and build their skills on specific themes.

Hon. Mohamed Nashiz MP Chair, Public Accounts Committee, People's Majlis, Maldives:

"The workshop created a platform to develop common, relevant and achievable objectives to improve the effectiveness of PACs in our region. The continuous and ongoing workshops have increased collaboration among us, facilitated learning and given us an opportunity to share experiences, leading to a shared roadmap of activities and milestones for the success of Public Accounts Committees."

SECURITY

Threats to national security are ever-changing. Countries and their citizens now face a myriad of diverse and complex threats at both the national and international level. These dangers range from economic recessions, environmental degradation and climate change, to pandemics, cyberwarfare, civil wars and political uprisings, as well as the emergence of sophisticated, well-funded terror groups and intrastate challenges to territorial boundaries. Parliamentarians have a responsibility and mandate to ensure national security is in place as elected/nominated representatives. CPA UK works with Parliaments to support this work, including their responsibilities to legislate, ensure policy oversight, budget approval as well as constituency engagement.



CYBERSECURITY WORKSHOP

The Cybersecurity Workshop, delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the University of Oxford and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was developed to enable Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth to build their capacity to legislate on and scrutinise cybersecurity issues.

The workshop provided a unique opportunity for participants to share international and regional best practice, whilst considering ways in which Commonwealth Parliaments can support each other in combatting cybercrime and developing cybersecure legislation. The objective of the workshop was to explore and support the delivery of the commitments in the 2018 Commonwealth Cyber Declaration, including raising awareness of current cybersecurity threats and challenges. Participating delegates had a range of profiles, from newly elected parliamentarians to committee members as well as shadow and national ministers with cybersecurity portfolios.

Through a combination of interactive exercises, expert panel sessions and peer-to-peer exchanges, CPA UK gave participants with the knowledge, tools and connections required to strengthen cybersecurity legislation within their own jurisdictions and to be confident leaders in this rapidly expanding and shifting policy area.



"I now have a greater understanding of cybersecurity and how human rights and economic opportunity depend on it. The workshop has made me more cognizant of the dangers and opportunities of the internet, especially in the development of small nation states."

- Workshop Delegate

TRADE

Following the global recession, Brexit and now above all Covid-19, there are fundamental changes taking place in the Commonwealth trade landscape, and the Commonwealth, with its diverse membership, is adapting to and coming to terms with these changes. For this to be successful parliamentarians must be well equipped to understand the implications, particularly around trade agreements, and to drive this agenda at a domestic and international level. CPA UK seeks to support this work through its programmes.



EASTERN CARIBBEAN - STUDY VISIT

A six-member cross-party delegation of members and officials from the UK Parliament visited Barbados and Grenada for a programme of meetings and visits with parliamentary stakeholders, officials and leading civil society members. International trade was a core focus for the delegation, alongside other topical issues including security, climate change and disaster resilience.

At the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, the UK Government announced its intention to reopen smaller diplomatic posts as part of its commitment to a post-Brexit "Global Britain". With three new posts created in the Caribbean, the UK now has the largest diplomatic network in the Caribbean of any country in the world.

Against this backdrop, the delegation was in a prime position to meet counterparts in the region to discuss the future of UK-Caribbean trade now that trading relationships previously covered by EU agreements will be revisited.

"As a country, Barbados is at a crossroads, just like the UK. Now is a great time to revisit our trading relationship."

- Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry

"It was an incredible experience to visit Barbados and Grenada as part of a cross-party delegation. We touched on a range of issues, including trade, climate change and the fight against crime, all of which are important issues for both the UK and the region. Strengthening our economic, environmental and security partnerships will be of benefit to both sides."

- Lord Mann of Holbeck Moor

**SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA - VISIT**

A CPA UK delegation visited Malaysia and Singapore in February 2020 to strengthen parliamentary ties. Across the four-day programme, the delegation covered a variety of issues including trade, defence and human rights with their parliamentary counterparts as well as civil society. Against the backdrop of the Covid-19 crisis, the delegation learnt about all the issues arising from the spread of the virus, including reduced tourism.

In Singapore, the delegation was able to engage in dialogue around the country's approach to trade and foreign direct investment. Meetings with Enterprise, the government body that supports Singapore's entrepreneurs to reach foreign markets, provided insights into how Singapore competes in the global market. A discussion with Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner, Natalie Black, detailed the Department for International Trade's priorities in Singapore, which is to foster stronger UK-Singapore trade links.

The delegation also explored remaining challenges such as the illicit wildlife trade. As a major regional trade hub served by the Singapore Strait, one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, Singapore is the second busiest port globally, and port immigration struggles to intercept smuggled items. The delegation was introduced to new legislation to curb illegal wildlife trade, innovatively focusing on financial tracing instead of physical inspection.

Considering the increased need for parliamentarians to understand trade and trade agreements, delegates benefited by learning about key achievements and remaining challenges for UK trade links with Malaysia and Singapore.

**BOTSWANA - VISIT**

CPA UK's visit to Botswana in February 2020 re-energised the relationship with its first bilateral visit to the country in a number of years. Both the UK and Botswana started a new parliament following elections in 2019. The four-member UK delegation engaged with new and returning members in Botswana to explore a number of themes, including women's representation and parliamentary scrutiny, alongside areas specific to the Botswana-UK relationship, such as economic diversification and wildlife conservation.

The delegation heard about the central position of diamond extraction to Botswana's economy. The Government receives 80% of the profits from raw diamonds, allowing them to provide free healthcare and education up to the age of 13. Botswana is also aware of the importance of an over-reliance on one industry and is pushing to diversify its economy. The Chair of the Finance, Trade and Economic Development Committee explained that Botswana was working through the UN sustainable development goals in order to diversify towards both agriculture and tourism.

Some of the most open debates concerned wildlife conservation, particularly Botswana's approach to managing its elephant population, which is the world's largest. In 2019 Botswana ended its moratorium on elephant hunting, which caused a substantial backlash from the conservation community. Botswana maintains that its approach strives for co-existence between humans and wildlife by protecting its elephants – for instance through trans-frontier agreements – but managing the population through hunting.

CPA UK looks forward to continuing dialogue with Botswana and intends to welcome a Speaker led delegation in 2020/21.

COMMUNICATIONS OUTPUTS



60 blog articles



Over **50** media hits...



...in **17** countries

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Responding to Covid-19:

The emergence of Covid-19 as a global pandemic significantly impacted the work of CPA UK including the difficult decision to cancel the Pan-Commonwealth CAPAC Workshop, due to be held in London from 17-19 March.

In response to Covid-19, CPA UK adopted alternate methods to continue supporting parliamentarians and officials both in the UK and across the Commonwealth.

In place of the cancelled CAPAC Workshop, CPA UK recorded **15** video sessions with speakers, covering topics such as public outreach, measuring PAC effectiveness and witness diversity. These videos were then shared with delegates as part of a virtual workshop.

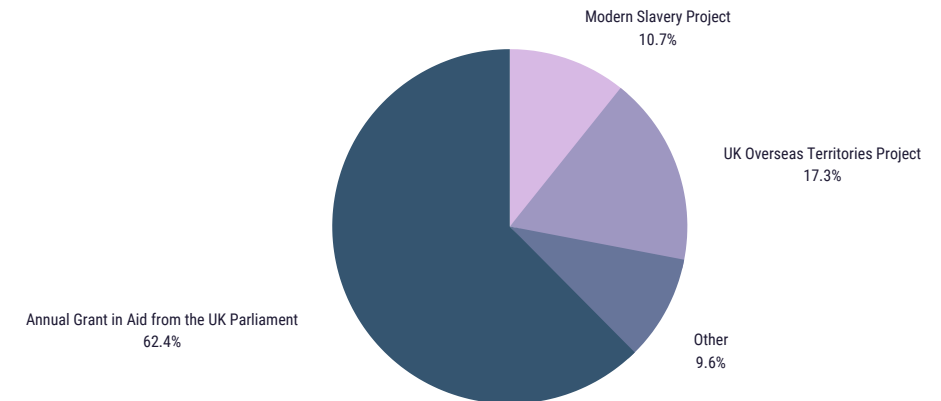


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In the financial year 2019/2020, CPA UK had an income of £3,025,915 which included an annual grant-in-aid payment of £1,888,922 from the UK Parliament (70% House of Commons/30% House of Lords).


The Modern Slavery Project had an income of £324,625 and the UK Overseas Territories Project had an income of £522,756. In addition CPA UK secured £289,612 from government and parliamentary partners to undertake key activities such as enhancing the performance of parliaments, working with Public Accounts Committees and Electoral Observation Missions.


This is a summary of our financial activities, extracted from the audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020. Copies of the full Annual Reports and Accounts are available on the CPA UK website: www.uk-cpa.org.



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK - CPA UK

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