

REPORT ON COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK

WOMEN IN TRADE WORKSHOP

Westminster (London), United Kingdom
20-22 June 2023

Background:

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) supports and strengthens parliamentary democracy throughout the Commonwealth, with focus on priority themes. The priority themes are; women in parliament; tackling modern slavery; security; public accounts committees; and international trade.

CPA UK hosted the inaugural Women in Trade Workshop from Tuesday 20th June – Thursday 22nd June 2023 in Westminster, London. The three-day Workshop included women parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth to strengthen their knowledge of international trade and to discuss more specifically the impact of trade agreements on gender equality, poverty alleviation and economic empowerment of women in the Commonwealth.

The workshop included communication and leadership training, as well as providing an environment for delegates to share experiences, challenges and discuss innovative solutions. Finally, the workshop hopes to provide participants a valuable opportunity to build a strong network of fellow women parliamentarians across the Commonwealth, with the common aim of supporting gender-inclusive trade policy.

Summary:

I would like to thank Speaker Hon. Michelle Roberts MLA and President Hon. Alanna Clohesy MLC for the opportunity to represent the Western Australian Parliament at the CPA UK Women in Trade Workshop. Also representing the Western Australian Parliament was the Hon. Sophia Moermond MLC.

The Women in Trade workshop was of very high quality with relevant presentations from leading experts. Western Australia is a trading state within a trading nation, and it was useful to interrogate the benefits and challenges of trade through a gendered lens. Sharing experiences with women parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth, Western Australia does not experience the level of structural inequality and discrimination as many of the jurisdictions represented at the workshop. None the less, it was valuable to consider mechanisms for increasing women's participation in trade

opportunities in Western Australia, and to consider ways to further strengthen the economic, cultural and social benefits that trade brings to our state.



Workshop Program

Session 1: The Contemporary Trade Landscape

This session will explore the current trends and patterns in international trade across the different regions of the Commonwealth. This will be an opportunity for delegates to share their experiences on trade and investment in their jurisdictions, and to create relationships to strengthen dialogue, networking, and collaboration on trade. Location: CPA Room Chair: The Baroness Merron, House of Lords, UK Parliament Speakers: Dr Brendan Vickers, Head of International Trade Policy, Commonwealth Secretariat Hon. Selima Ahmad, Member of the Parliament of Bangladesh and Founder of the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jamie MacLeod, Trade Economist and Policy Fellow, London School of Economics Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa

Session 2: Negotiation Process

Trade negotiations are an opaque process, with little known about the who/what/where and how of the deliberations. A question and answer session provides a chance for delegates to better understand the mechanisms that are at play, and the ways in which this should be taken into account by parliamentarians when scrutinising policy. Location: CPA Room Chair: Jacob Loose, Africa Regional Programmes Manager, CPA UK Speakers: Dr. Elitsa Garnizova, Director, Trade Policy Hub, LSE Consulting Dr. Minako Morita-Jaeger Senior Research Fellow in International Trade in the Department of Economics, University of Sussex Business School

Session 3: Promoting Human Rights through International Trade

Bilateral, multilateral and regional trade offers nations the opportunity to not only further investment domestically but also advance human rights standards globally. From creating economic growth to promoting gender equality, international trade has the ability to enhance the lives of communities across the Commonwealth so it is important that the human rights impacts of agreements are considered at every stage. This session will explore the intersection between trade and human rights, as well as how parliamentarians can ensure they are effectively scrutinising trade policy with the promotion of human rights in mind. Chair: Theo Clarke MP, House of Commons, UK Parliament Speakers: Jane Korinek, Economist and Policy Analyst, Trade Policy Division, OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate Lord Purvis of Tweed, Vice Chair, Trade Justice APPG and Member of the House of Lords, UK Parliament Ruth Bergan, Director, Trade Justice Movement

Witness the House of Commons International Development Committee oral evidence hearing on 'The Future of UK Aid'

Session 4: Transparency in Supply Chains

There has been plenty of focus on improving transparency in supply chains to encourage companies to strengthen their due diligence processes. This is so the appropriate measures are put in place to mitigate human rights violations and to enhance the protection for women. This session will explore what universal treaties have already been established and what new initiatives are being implemented from different legislatures that others can learn from. Chair: Imogen Richards, Programme Officer, CPA UK Speakers: Sian Lea, Business and Human Rights Manager, Anti-Slavery International Hanh Nguyen, Senior Labour Rights Researcher, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre Olga Martin-Ortega, Lead, Professor of International Law, School of Law and Criminology, University of Greenwich

Session 5: Creating Gender-Sensitive Parliaments

This session will explore the ways in which legislatures can ensure they are scrutinising legislation from a gender-sensitive lens, as well as how institutions can ensure they are inclusive of all and promote women's political participation. Chair: Josephine Jengo, Programmes Manager and Women in Parliament Lead, CPA UK Speaker: Professor Sarah Childs, Professor of Gender and Politics at Royal Holloway University

Session 6: Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Agreements

The mainstreaming of gender into trade agreements and measuring the gender responsiveness of trade policy is a growing focus in the field. A number of countries have been seen to commit to consider the impact of trade agreements on women, including for example through dedicated gender clauses. This session will allow the panel and delegates to discuss the various approaches to gender mainstreaming in trade agreements and examine their effectiveness in ensuring women are not left behind when it comes to the benefits of bilateral and multilateral trade. 1015 - 1130 Chair: Rahel Kibru, Programmes Manager and International Trade Lead, CPA UK Speakers: Judith Fessehaie, Head of Women and Trade Programme, International Trade Centre Amy Brooker, Senior Public Affairs Officer, Women's Budget Group

Witness Prime Minister's Questions Live

Session 7: Communications Workshop

An interactive workshop focussed on women parliamentarians' communications skills and techniques for being an effective member. The session will look at persuasive speeches and effective

questioning during committee inquiries. Location: Committee Room 2a Facilitator: Kate Faragher, Founder and CEO, BeSpoke Skills

Session 8: Women's Leadership in Politics

At a time when women face numerous obstacles to their political participation, including targeted online abuse, this discussion will allow Commonwealth women parliamentarians to share their experiences of the barriers faced in their political careers, approaches to overcoming challenges and how all parliamentarians across the Commonwealth, including male allies, can ensure the younger generation of aspiring women representatives can succeed. 1640 - 1740 Location: Committee Room 2a Chair: The Rt. Hon. the Baroness D'Souza, Member of the House of Lords, UK Parliament Speakers: Hon. Akierra Missick MP, Member of the House of Assembly, Turks and Caicos Islands The Rt. Hon. Dame Maria Miller MP, Chair of CPA UK Executive Committee and Member of the House of Commons, UK Parliament Hon. Teima Onorio, Member of the Kiribati Parliament Hon. Eleni Petinos, Shadow Minister for Finance, Member of the Parliament of New South Wales

Session 9: Scrutiny Process in the UK and the Commonwealth

One of parliament's main roles is to examine and challenge the work of the government. This session will allow participants to hear from a panel of members from the UK and the Commonwealth with experience scrutinising trade agreements and associated legislation. The panel will share the scrutiny process in their own legislatures, highlighting key challenges and any recent developments. Chair: The Rt. Hon. the Lord Haselhurst, House of Lords, UK Parliament Speakers: The Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town, Chair, International Agreements Committee, House of Lords, UK Parliament Alexander Horne, Former Special Advisor to the International Agreements Committee and Visiting Professor of Law, Durham University Hon. Agnes Nandi Nkusankhoma, Member of the Parliament of Malawi

Session 10: Research and Evidence-Based

Scrutiny To effectively scrutinise trade policy and agreements, significant research and evidence gathering is vital. This session will explore avenues parliamentarians can take to source and utilise key research and evidence. It will also look into the important role stakeholders play to facilitate trade bill scrutiny. 1030 - 1130 Location: Committee Room 2a Chair: Selsabil Amine, Communications Officer, CPA UK Speakers: Emily Unell, Senior Clerk, Table Office and former Second Clerk to the International Trade Committee, UK Parliament Professor Christopher Dent, Professor in Economics and International Business and former Special Advisor to the House of Commons International Trade Committee, Edge Hill University Natasha Mutebi, Social Science Advisor, Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology, UK Parliament

Session 11: Committee Evidence Analysis

An opportunity for delegates to put into practice key areas covered in previous sessions. Prior to the committee exercise, delegates will examine the evidence determining key areas of interest and of concern. Facilitator: James Hockaday, Committee Specialist, Business and Trade Committee, House of Commons, UK Parliament

Session 12: Committee Exercise

Facilitator: James Hockaday, Committee Specialist, Business and Trade Committee, House of Commons, UK Parliament

Final Feedback

Facilitator: Matthew Hamilton, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, CPA UK

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing Keynote by Hon. Oneidge Walrond MP, Minister for Tourism