



WFD

Working to support and strengthen democracy
around the world through developing political
parties and parliamentary institutions



WESTMINSTER
FOUNDATION FOR
DEMOCRACY

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK's leading democracy building foundation. Established in 1992, WFD is an independent public body sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from which it receives an annual grant. Over the years we have grown in strength and diversity, working to achieve sustainable political change in developing democracies. Working with and through partner organisations we seek to strengthen the institutions of democracy, principally political parties (through the work of the UK political parties), parliaments and the range of institutions that make up civil society. We believe that, for a democracy to flourish, all of these institutions must be strong and sustainable.

The Foundation is uniquely placed to draw directly on the expertise and involvement of all the Westminster **political parties** and works through them on both a party-to-party and cross-party basis to develop the capacity of local political parties and politicians to operate effectively in pluralistic and vibrant democracies.

The Foundation's **parliamentary** work aims to strengthen good governance through developing sustainable capacity among parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and parliamentary structures to ensure transparency and accountability.



WFD, through the UK political parties, has party-to-party programmes in:

AFRICA

Angola
Botswana
Cameroon
Ghana
Kenya
Malawi
Mozambique
Namibia
South Africa
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia

EUROPE

Albania
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Georgia
Kosovo
Macedonia
Moldova
Montenegro
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Ukraine

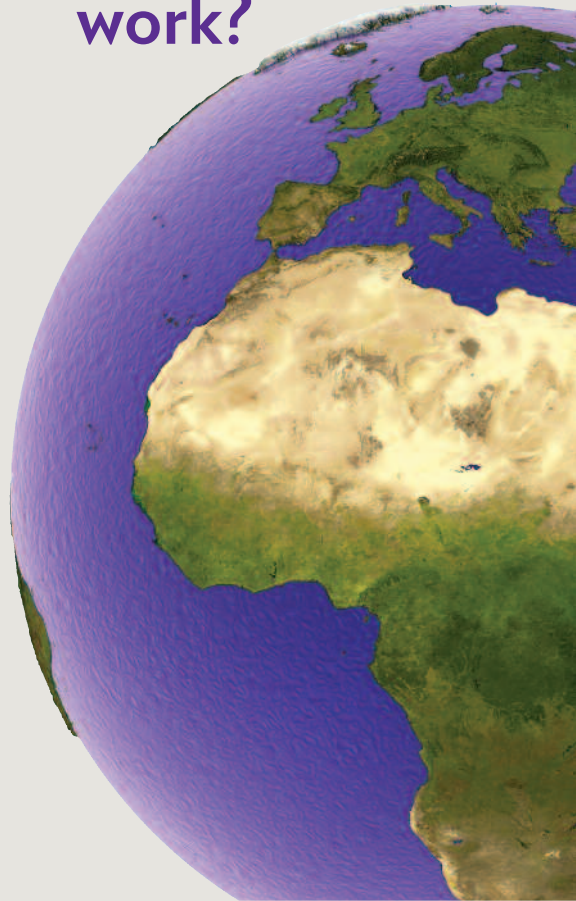
MIDDLE EAST and NORTH AFRICA

Egypt
Jordan
Lebanon
Morocco
Palestinian Territories
Tunisia

ELSEWHERE

El Salvador
Maldives
Mongolia
Nicaragua

where does the Westminster Foundation for Democracy work?



WFD has cross-party political programmes in:

Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Bangladesh.

WFD has parliamentary strengthening programmes in:

Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Georgia, Kenya, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Ukraine and Uganda. **These include programmes which are part of The Westminster Consortium (TWC)**, which is led and managed by WFD and funded by the Department for International Development (DfID) Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF).



**WESTMINSTER
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DEMOCRACY**



THE
WESTMINSTER
CONSORTIUM

how do we work with political parties?

Political party development is an essential element in the process of democratisation and good governance. The Westminster based political parties work with their counterparts to develop policy based political parties in new and emerging democracies, to encourage mass membership providing real political choice to the electorate, and to encourage peaceful transitions of power. Their programmes aim to strengthen the organisational, campaigning and communications skills of political parties as well as to support internal democracy and to develop transparent, accountable party structures.

WFD provides support through the Westminster political parties on a broad range of themes including:

Party building and organisation development

Strengthening the organisation and capacity of the political parties we work with, including targeted work with women and youth groups.

Development of party campaigning and communications

Assisting with the development of campaigning and communication tools of parties locally, regionally and nationally.

Message and policy development

Assisting with the development of policy based platforms of the political parties we work with, providing real choice for the electorate.

Regional cooperation

Supporting likeminded political parties on a regional basis to develop stronger inter-party links and encouraging the exchange of ideas and best practice.

Development of nationally and locally elected representatives

Supporting the capacity of elected representatives at all levels in political parties, particularly in communicating with constituents, recognising the importance of building structures from the grassroots up.

how do we work to strengthen parliaments?

Effective parliaments are essential to democracy and good governance. The capacity of elected representatives to fulfil their roles in legislation, oversight and representation depends both on their skills as parliamentarians and the support provided to them by properly trained parliamentary staff. We aim to develop and implement country-led, sustainable models for parliamentary strengthening, working both with local parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. While WFD can and does tailor its work to local needs, we currently prioritise five key areas of parliamentary practice:

Financial oversight

Parliamentary reporting and access to information

Parliamentary process and management

Parliament – civil society relations

Human rights and the rule of law



WFD has also established **The Westminster Consortium for Parliaments and Democracy** which brings together UK actors engaged in parliamentary strengthening to collaborate on innovative programmes. In addition to WFD, the Consortium includes the [House of Commons Overseas Office](#), [National Audit Office](#), [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), [University of Essex – Centre for Democratic Governance](#), [International Bar Association](#) and [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – UK Branch](#). The Consortium also works closely with a wide range of local partners in each country to help deliver its parliamentary strengthening work.

WFD is uniquely resourced to bring together its broad range of expertise in political party and parliamentary strengthening. This meeting point is fundamental to the Foundation's work, as it is key to effective democracy building.

how can I find out more?

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