



**WESTMINSTER
FOUNDATION FOR
DEMOCRACY**

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



An Executive Non-Departmental Body sponsored by:

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**Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office**





**WESTMINSTER
FOUNDATION FOR
DEMOCRACY**

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

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CONTENTS

STRATEGIC REPORT	9
THE YEAR IN REVIEW	15
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	16
SOUTH EAST ASIA	24
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	28
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	36
LATIN AMERICA	43
SUPPORTING THE INTERNATIONAL WORK OF UK POLITICAL PARTIES	44
THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY	45
THE LABOUR PARTY WFD PROGRAMME	49
THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY WFD PROGRAMME	52
THE WFD 'MULTI-PARTY' OFFICE: SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT BY SMALLER UK POLITICAL PARTIES	55
ALL UK POLITICAL PARTIES COME TOGETHER TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS	59
THE WFD RESEARCH PROGRAMME	63
ELECTION OBSERVATION AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE	65
DEMOCRACY UK: GLOBAL VALUES IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD - WFD'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE	67
KEY RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES	69
FINANCE REVIEW	70
GOVERNORS' REPORT	77
STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' AND ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES	81
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT	85
REMUNERATION REPORT	95
THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY LTD	103
ACCOUNTS	109
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS	126

FOREWORD BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Rt Hon John Bercow MP



It's an honour and a privilege for me to be able to congratulate Westminster Foundation for Democracy on its 25th anniversary.

Over the last quarter of a century the foundation has done much to embed democratic ideas and institutions in so many countries around the world which had previously been denied them.

Working in challenging and often complex political environments, the foundation - enjoying high level political support and the advantage of superb staff - has assisted the transition from tyranny to democracy, from the denial of human rights to their embrace, and from the absence of electoral competition to the flowering of it.

With UK parliamentary institutions informing your endeavours, not as a rigid model, but as a useful guide, your work has not been confined to one place or continent. From the Baltic states to South Africa, from Gambia to Myanmar, and from Sri Lanka to Sierra Leone and Venezuela, WFD has provided a trusty compass to those seeking to navigate the path to political pluralism.

I'm conscious that my predecessors supported the work of the Foundation drawing on their own experience and wisdom.

For my part, you may also rest assured that I offer these words of tribute or commendation, not merely in a spirit of politeness, still less to tick a box - I do so on the strength of my 21 years' service to date in Parliament. This included more than five years focused on international development and global poverty before I was elected Speaker, and regular visits to Myanmar, where WFD has such an important role to play in support of those who cherish democracy in their country and elsewhere.

I am extremely proud to be your Patron and I have every faith that your important work will continue to make a real difference to ensuring democracy thrives across the world for the next 25 years and beyond.



STRATEGIC REPORT

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

Richard Graham MP



I write in my first month as WFD's new Chair, a role I'm delighted to take up after a lifetime of living and working in different countries and very different political structures.

So the credit for the progress and achievements outlined here over the last year goes to others. I want first to pay tribute to my predecessor Sir Henry Bellingham MP, who steered WFD through five years of considerable change, and the volunteer Governors from Parliament and outside for their contribution.

Democracy is by its nature a fragile plant, and the role of WFD is that of a constant gardener - watering, nurturing, encouraging and adapting to new circumstances.

There is nothing inevitable about the success of institutions that believe above all in good governance - accountability to the people and the independent rule of law. Autocracy can sometimes seem less 'messy' and provide greater continuity.

Democracies should therefore need to help each other to see off both new threats of digital manipulation of social media and elections as well as more traditional threats to the role of Parliament, press and civil society.

Our combination of robust institutional programmes and the development of relationships between political parties continues to lead in addressing these issues, and is today a strategic asset for Global Britain.

This report is full of examples of where and how WFD has been making a difference with over 30 partner countries. They're the result of creative programming and hard work by Chief Executive Anthony Smith and our 100 staff, working with the international teams of our political parties and many overseas institutions and individuals. I want to thank all involved.

We are constantly learning about both new and familiar challenges across the world. But we all share the belief that in the right environment a strongly functioning democracy is a great cause. My recent visit to Albania, in the context of the Western Balkans summit in London in July, brought alive how stronger democracy can help the strategic direction of the nation.

With great support from our sponsors - the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development - we aim to do even more over the next three years.

Richard Graham

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT: WFD AT 25

Anthony Smith, CMG



WFD works with UK political parties, democratic institutions and civil society to support effective, inclusive and accountable democracy in developing countries.

This was WFD's 25th year of activity and our mission is as relevant today as it was in the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Democratic systems and democratic values remain the best way to protect individual rights and to help countries to achieve sustainable security and prosperity.

That is why we are proud of the cross-party support WFD receives in the UK and the active engagement of the Westminster Parliament, the Scottish Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the National Assembly for Wales. With support from the UK government, WFD will continue to share the UK's democratic experience with our international partners.

Last September, nearly 200 delegates from all over the world, including foreign ministers and speakers of parliaments, debated the UK's role in supporting democratic values at WFD's 25th anniversary. The conference launched our new strategy, which describes WFD's ambition to have an even bigger impact on democratic systems by expanding our work with civil society and on electoral issues.

As we prepare for the next stage of WFD's development, we are pleased to record progress across many of our programmes. WFD highlights from 2017-18 include:

- In the Middle East and North Africa, we welcomed significant progress in terms of legislation to protect women and girls from violence in Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco, following extended engagement by the WFD-supported Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries. At the international level, WFD continued supporting the coalition to advance an Arab League convention on violence against women, now at second draft stage.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, our partnership to involve more women, people with disabilities and young people in the Sierra Leone elections gained significant traction; a new partnership to support Gambian democracy delivered timely support to the new National Assembly; and we also launched support to young politicians and activists in Nigeria.
- In Europe and Central Asia, the launch of an openness index and detailed transparency action plans for Western Balkan democracies, new programmes to support the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and local government in Kyrgyzstan.

Our flagship study on the cost of politics continues to have an impact every time a new country analysis is released. Valuable research on the cost of running for office, or the price of serving as an MP, is informing reform initiatives in Ghana in this strand of the WFD Research Programme.

We closed 2017-18 with a major conference on ending violence against women in politics. This was organised jointly by all seven UK political parties in the House of Commons and WFD. With the participation of ministers and MPs from over 20 countries, the conference produced a rich collection of ideas, experiences, research and recommendations, including on the role of social media, which we will take forward in 2018-19.

Progress in democracy development is neither linear nor irreversible. Our operations in Myanmar are being reviewed to ensure that our programming responds to the conflicts in the country, while our programme in Venezuela continues to support inclusive policy debate and democratic institutions at a time of economic crisis and political instability. Adapting to shifting political scenarios, constant review of local contexts, and a focus on learning remain at the heart of our approach.

WFD is also proud to be leading a new 'Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy' over the two-year term of UK Chair of the Commonwealth. We also hope to meet strong demand for democracy support emerging from Latin America and South East Asia.

As we deliver this statutory update to Parliament, we are already upgrading Foundation systems and structures, as well as beginning to implement our new strategy. As WFD at 26 continues to evolve, I invite all UK and international colleagues to get in touch and renew the connection with us.



Samson Iatodo Executive Director of Youth Initiative for Advocacy Growth and Advancement in Nigeria addresses WFD's 25th anniversary conference in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in September 2017.

A NEW STRATEGY FOR WFD

In September 2017, WFD marked its 25th anniversary with the launch of a new [Strategic Framework](#). This will guide the development of the Foundation between 2017 and 2022.

WFD's vision is the universal establishment of legitimate and effective, multi-party democracy. Delivering on this vision is beyond the scope of any individual organisation. Democratic processes are shaped by many actors including citizens and social movements, government, political parties, media, civil society organisations, universities, private sector organisations and traditional authorities.

WFD's traditional focus – supporting more effective political parties and parliaments – will remain central to our mission: in 2017-18 alone, we delivered parliamentary programmes in over 30 countries and political party programmes in dozens more.

WFD's vision is the universal establishment of legitimate and effective, multi-party democracy.

Over the next five years, there is great potential for WFD to do more: institutional strengthening of parliaments and political parties is critical but rarely sufficient to transform political systems. Lasting change requires multiple actors to overcome significant obstacles – political, institutional, technical, logistical, and financial – to achieve their goals.

We intend to engage more directly with civil society, electoral and other independent institutions. We will support them to strengthen their skills and work together to bring about greater accountability, more credible elections,



WFD's Chief Executive, Anthony Smith CMG addressing the 25th anniversary conference for the Foundation in September 2017.

improved policy making, increased citizen participation and more inclusive representation.

Key themes will include equality and women's active participation in public life, the representation and inclusion of young people, people with disabilities and LGBT+ people into politics. WFD will continue to support efforts to ensure human and political rights of all people are respected, and government representation is increasingly diverse.

WFD will build on its existing work recruiting, training, and deploying UK election observers and launch new programmes to strengthen electoral institutions, including election management bodies, civil society organisations, domestic observation networks, political parties, legislatures, and, when appropriate, media. We will aim to work long-term through electoral cycles.

In addition to expanding who we work with and which processes and themes we specialise in, WFD will continue to transform how we work:

- We will bring together practitioners who share similar experiences to learn from each other and develop new methods.
- We will conduct political economy analyses (PEA) and use local knowledge and priorities to design and adapt our programmes.
- We will transform our training work, moving to a model of learner-led design that includes simulations, mentoring, secondments, hands-on support, and other forms of learning by doing.
- We will use regional and network programmes to enable learning between countries with similar traditions and challenges.
- We will also adopt new approaches to monitoring, evaluation, and learning - including process tracing and outcome matrices.

Collaboration with other organisations with different skillsets and methods will be increasingly important and help us to complement our action and address challenges from different angles. This will include a focus on partnering with other UK-based organisations.

As a member of the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), we remain committed to working closely with leading European democracy assistance organisations and institutions. Following the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) of April 2018 in London, we will also expand our partnership with institutions from the Commonwealth.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2017-2018, WFD implemented **60 programmes** directly, in addition to **52 projects** implemented by UK political parties. It operated a network of **26 country offices**, of which **30%** are based within the parliaments of partner countries.

The WFD network is divided into five regions, which are supported by directorates based in London. These are:

- **SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**
- **ASIA**
- **EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**
- **MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**
- **LATIN AMERICA**

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



Election spotlight:
historic transfer of power
in **Gambian** elections
opens up opportunities
for parliamentary support
from WFD



WFD helped promote a
range of new research
and information services
available to MPs to improve
policy-making in the
Parliament of **Ghana**



Nigeria's Senate opens the
door for more young people
to be elected to office by
adopting legislation to
lower the minimum
age for candidates



WFD launches Youth
Empowerment Programme
to support young political
activists make the most of
changes to legislation



WFD designs and deliver an
induction for newly elected
Senators



Uganda Parliamentary
Forum on Youth Affairs
receives petition
from National Union
of Plantation and
Agricultural Workers
at meeting organised
by WFD



Election spotlight:
Kenya elects a
new President,
Members of
Parliament and
local governments

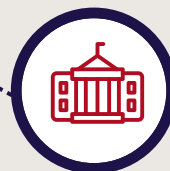


Budget Office
setup by WFD
publishes analysis
to help monitor
public money in
Mozambique

APR



WFD supports new National Assembly get to grips with parliamentary processes



Election spotlight: **Sierra Leone** elects a new President, Parliament and local councils



Over 15,000 women from rural areas reached by WFD voter education programme ahead of general election in **Sierra Leone**



WFD helped train nearly 70 journalists on weeding out sexism from political reporting to not penalise women participation



4,000 jobs saved in **Uganda** sugar industry following intervention by young MPs working with WFD



5-year action plan developed with Young Parliamentarian Forum in **Nigeria** to put youth issues at the heart of the political debate

MAR

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Promoting inclusive politics

Enabling young people, women and people with disabilities to engage fully in democracy is at the heart of WFD's work in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2017-18, WFD worked with young members of parliament to ensure the interests of young people are represented effectively at the national level in **Nigeria** and **Uganda**. The Nigerian Young Parliamentarian Forum developed a seven-goal action plan with WFD support. The plan will create more opportunities to champion legislation in the Nigerian Parliament. Similarly, the two main Nigerian political parties developed youth strategies to engage young people in political party governance. WFD helped the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA) identify and agree priority issues for legislative action. We helped organise regular meetings with representatives from local communities and provided technical training on drafting parliamentary motions and ensuring

legislation is in line with international human rights standards.

In **Sierra Leone**, WFD delivered a comprehensive programme of voter education and engagement ahead of the March 2018 elections. The programme focused on the inclusion and participation of women, young people and people with disabilities. WFD worked with Sierra Leonean political parties to design accessible manifestoes and consider adopting inclusive policies. We also worked with the Sierra Leone Union for Disability Inclusion (SLUDI) to negotiate and launch a National Agenda for People with Disabilities, outlining practical steps for political parties, parliament and electoral bodies to include people with disabilities in the political process. The Agenda was centred on six pro-disability public policy priorities, identified by the disability community following inclusive nationwide stakeholder consultations (involving nearly 1,400 persons with disabilities across Sierra Leone's 14 administrative districts). WFD supported the All Political Party Women Association (APPWA) to implement a voter education campaign aimed specifically at women. Additionally, we delivered training to 69 journalists on gender-sensitive political reporting to further help weed out intolerant speech directed at women candidates.



WFD organised a training for young activists on advocating for policy issues in Abuja, Nigeria in January 2018.

“ When young Nigerians' voices are heard, the more consideration will be given to their issues. ”

Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe, Chairman,
Young Parliamentarian Forum, Nigeria

CASE STUDY

YOUNG MPS IN UGANDA SAVE 4,000 JOBS IN SUGAR FACTORIES



Young MPs in Uganda save 4000 jobs in sugar factories.

WFD started working with the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA), a group of young MPs, in 2016. We help them to navigate parliamentary processes, connect with civil society organisations and apply human rights principles to legislation concerning young people. All strands came together, thanks to ongoing WFD support, in January 2018, when the Forum helped save 4000 jobs in West Nile district.

Over 70% of Uganda's population is under 30 years old and youth unemployment is one of the biggest challenges facing the country. Industry in Uganda is dominated by the production of sugar and employment in this area offers a lifeline to young people working to escape poverty.

“ I am delighted that through this engagement we were able to save thousands of jobs for young people. ”

Hon. Moses Angundru MP for West Nile and member of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs

A Sugar Bill, introduced in December 2016 to regulate the sugar industry, was under consideration by parliament when two of the largest employers of young people in Uganda, sugar factories in Terego West in the Busoga region, said they would cut 4,000 jobs because of the arbitrary licensing of new factories. A group of young MPs, with WFD support,

looked to influence fellow members of parliament and the Sugar Bill itself to stop this.

Hon. Moses Angundru, a member of UPFYA who represents West Nile explained why he was motivated to act: "Our young people are attracted to big agricultural commercial farms since we don't have many industries that can absorb them."

At a meeting of the Forum organised by WFD in August 2017, the National Union of Plantation and Agricultural Workers Uganda (NUPAWU) raised concerns about the job losses with the young MPs and explained the factories' decision. Increased licensing of factories in the same area meant sugarcane grown for one factory was being poached by others, leading to a fall in profits. UPFYA wanted to act on behalf of their constituents and, at an emergency board meeting, organised with WFD support, it decided to intervene.

Applying learning from WFD training, UPFYA met and briefed the Speaker of Parliament and demanded that Parliament acted to save the many jobs at stake. Following a visit to the factories, the team then presented a report to the Tourism, Trade and Industry Committee and made recommendations to improve the Sugar Bill to resolve the issues raised by the union and factory management. The bill was amended to provide job security for union workers in January 2018.



Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs presented a report to the Tourism, Trade and Industry Committee with recommendations to improve the Sugar Bill.

Using evidence to improve decision making

Members of parliament are required to make laws on all sorts of complex policy areas, from business to health. This is why they need access to good research, data and information they can use to make informed decisions. Many of WFD's partner parliaments are building their capacity to provide better support to lawmakers.

In **Mozambique**, throughout 2017, the WFD-backed Unit for Economic, Financial and Budget Studies (UEEFO) became fully operational, producing 16 technical analyses in response to requests from the Committee of Planning and Budgeting. Topics ranged from the 2018 state budget proposal to consumption tax on used vehicles.

“ **The budget analysis unit provides Parliament with the skills needed to scrutinise the budget and increase services to the people they represent.** ”

Hon. Eneas Comiche – Chair of Planning and Budget Committee, Parliament of Mozambique

In **Ghana**, WFD continues to support coordination between different parliamentary departments to provide better evidence to legislators. The programme helped publicise the services on offer from the Inter-Departmental Research and Information Group to MPs and parliamentary staff in the Parliament of Ghana. In July 2017, a four-day internal communications campaign profiled the evidence available to legislators.

Also in 2017-18, WFD supported the National Assembly of Botswana to develop a similar initiative. Parliamentary staff working in research, Hansard and information departments came together to agree the scope of increased co-operation between each department.

Preparing newly-elected legislators for their job

Starting a new job can be daunting for anyone, including members of parliament. Following historic elections in The Gambia and Kenya in 2017, WFD provided training for newly-elected legislators to help them understand parliamentary powers and procedure.

This was particularly important in **The Gambia**, where over 90% of members of the National Assembly were elected for the first time following regime change in December 2016. The WFD induction, organised in partnership the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association focused on parliamentary ethics and included practical mock committee sessions. In **Kenya**, WFD partnered with the Senate Induction planning team to deliver an induction for new Senators following the August 2017 elections. The programme focused on the new powers of the Kenyan Senate, following constitutional changes which devolved powers to local authorities in August 2010.

CASE STUDY

SIERRA LEONE: MAKING POLITICAL REPORTING FAIR TO WOMEN

Political parties, electoral bodies and candidates rely on traditional media channels like radio, newspapers and television to communicate messages with voters, but coverage of women candidates and debates on issues important to women voters are often lacking or missing entirely in the Sierra Leone media. Often, when women candidates do receive media coverage it can be discriminatory. This gives an advantage to male candidates and prolongs inequality at the legislative level.

“I will pro-actively engage women from the political parties’ leadership to demystify the fear of the media.”

Victoria V Bernard, a presenter of Women Talk for Star Radio, in Kenema District, Eastern Region

WFD worked with UN Women, Women in the Media-Sierra Leone, the Independent Media Commission and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists to train 69 journalists ahead of the March 2018 elections to change how journalists report on women candidates.

The training, which took place in early February, helped journalists like Victoria V Bernard, a presenter of Women Talk for Star Radio, in Kenema District, Eastern Region, be more responsive to women candidates and gender balanced when reporting on the elections and Sierra Leonean politics.

From new gender concepts and electoral legislation, to gender-sensitive language and messaging, ideas presented at the training helped Victoria and other participants change their approach to political reporting in the run-up to the election.

One of the main challenges Victoria, and other political correspondents like her faced, was finding women candidates available for interview. One of the recurring objectives of action plans developed by journalists during the training was to engage with more politically-active women. Victoria explained:

“I decided to engage women from the leadership of political parties proactively to help them overcome their fear of the media.”
Dodou C. M. Kebbeh - former Clerk of the National Assembly in The Gambia

Victoria was also inspired to change Star Radio’s coverage of women candidates. “One of the key commitments from my action plan is to engage the station manager to increase the allocated time for the Women Talk programme”, she said. Increasing the number of women who appear on her show and the amount of airtime they get would help



Victoria Bernard presenting her Action Plan during the Gender-Sensitive Training for the 2018 elections in Bo, Southern Region, Sierra Leone.



Journalists at the training discuss the principles of gender sensitive reporting.

crucial messages from women candidates reach more people.

Putting her plan into action, Victoria hosted women leaders on a weekly basis to talk about their political aspirations and vision for their communities. She also engaged male members of the political parties to support women. "Although not all women that appeared on my programme succeeded in being chosen for the councillor seats from their parties, I see an increase in the number of women put forward to represent their parties as councillors in 2018 as compared to 2012" Victoria said.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Holding government to account

Effective parliaments check and, on occasion, challenge what governments do. WFD supports parliamentary committees in partner countries across South East Asia to oversee the action of the executive branch of government and review legislation.

In 2017-18, WFD worked in **Indonesia** and **Sri Lanka** to support parliamentary institutions responsible for making sure public money is spent well.

Indonesia's Inspector General in parliament, responsible for the internal audit of publicly funded organisations, with WFD support, recruited and trained 35 auditors and developed standard rules for conducting financial audits of public bodies. In addition, WFD provided guidance on the UK parliamentary model and helped re-establish a dedicated public expenditure committee in the People's Representative Council (parliament).

It was also drawing on UK experience, as made available by WFD, that financial committees in the Sri Lankan Parliament coordinated their inquiries with the Auditor-General and Finance Ministry. This resulted in Parliament gaining access, for the first time, to the accounts of 350 state-owned businesses and over 800 government bodies. This will help legislators assess the merits of public ownership of key enterprises, including petroleum and fisheries, as well as the efficiency of public sector organisations while improving transparency and accountability.

In **Myanmar**, WFD continued implementing its three-year programme to support the transition to democracy in partnership with the UK House of Commons, British Council, and Irrawaddy Policy Exchange as well as a two-year project with the International Republican Institute (IRI).

Following the escalation of conflict and military-led action against the Rohingya population in Rakhine State, the international community condemned violence and urged action to ensure safe return of those who fled. The programme remains under constant review to ensure it helps meet the long-term challenge of addressing the causes of violence.

In 2017-18, WFD supported committees of the Parliament of Myanmar to become more effective and independent of government administration. This included training staff on policy research, writing and presentation skills, and temporary loans of House of Commons officials to provide on-the-job training to 11 different parliamentary committees.

“WFD gave us the confidence to co-own the process because we got to participate in every single step of it.”

Ms Ohnmar Thaung, Assistant Committee Director
– Parliament of Myanmar

Engaging citizens in the work of parliament

In an effective democracy, lawmakers engage with the communities they represent to ensure legislation fits their needs. Citizen engagement was at the heart of many activities WFD implemented in South East Asia in 2017-18. In **Indonesia**, we helped eight civil society organisations engage parliament on two high-profile pieces of legislation: the Anti-Narcotics Bill and the Counter Terrorism Bill. Under this initiative, as well as supporting



Ms Ohnmar Thuang Assistant Committee Director – Parliament of Myanmar.

the development of policy papers to provide background to MPs, WFD also promoted regular meetings between MPs, parliamentary staff and relevant stakeholders.

In **Laos**, WFD continued to support the Justice Committee with the development of standard petition templates to receive citizen feedback on the work of the National Assembly. The new templates mean parliamentary staff can now meet their internal target of processing at least three petitions a week.

In **Myanmar**, where WFD is piloting support programmes to two regional parliaments in Kayah and Sagaing, we held a three-day workshop in Loikaw to help legislators and staff engage with the public locally.

In **Sri Lanka**, WFD guided parliamentarians and officials in conducting public hearings and engaging with media. This is in preparation for the adoption of reformed standing orders and code of conduct which permits members of the public and journalists to attend committee meetings.

We also worked on increasing women's political participation, sharing the UK experience on means and ways to increase women's representation. We held workshops and study visits, ahead of the introduction of a 25% quota for women candidates at the provincial council level, which was eventually approved by Parliament in August 2017.

CASE STUDY

JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: NARCOTICS POLICIES IN INDONESIA

Indonesia has very tough laws on illegal drug trafficking and use. Following a self-declared 'illegal drug emergency', the President instructed police and the narcotics agency to shoot alleged drug dealers on the spot. This led to a staggering increase of extra judicial killing: a 400% rise in less than a year. The right to a fair trial is fundamental to the rule of law and democracy itself, so this policy violated international human rights principles.

WFD helped eight organisations calling for changes to the Anti-Narcotics Bill to engage with the Indonesian Parliament to increase the use of evidence in law-making and improve the text of the bill parliament will debate in September 2018.

"Parliament is now more open to evidence from local organisations. Our voice on better narcotics policies will be heard by the Legislation Committee" said Choky Risda

Ramadhan while reflecting on the benefits of the WFD programme. Choky is the Chair of Masyarakat Pemantau Peradilan (MAPPI), an organisation that advocates for fair trials.

With WFD support, organisations, including MAPPI contributed to and prepared a policy paper based on empirical evidence. The paper prioritises rehabilitation of users and fair trials for alleged traffickers. These ideas were then presented to committee members and parliamentary staff through regular opportunities created by WFD.

Prior to the WFD initiative, engagement between civil society and committee members or staff rarely happened. Civil society organisations (CSOs) often relied on their personal networks, engaging with one or two MPs from certain committees that were not necessarily relevant to the issues they wanted to promote.



Choky Risda Ramadhan hands the petition paper developed by the organisations receiving WFD support to members of parliament from the Legislation Committee.



CSOs, expert staff from the Legislation Committee and from the 10 party caucus' in Indonesia participate in WFD activity on evidence and human rights principles.

“It’s really useful to work with WFD. It opens doors for CSOs, human rights activists, and academics to engage regularly with members and staff of various committees and party caucuses.”

Choky Risda Ramadhan, Chair of Masyarakat Pemantau Peradilan (MAPPI)

“The Leadership and Members of the Legislation Committee accepted our evidence and it will help them speak more empirically.” said Choky.

The Indonesian parliament will soon debate the amendment of the Narcotics Law. Whatever the outcome, thanks to WFD’s support, the Indonesian parliament has a new practice of open and consultative legislation making and advocacy organisations can engage fully with parliamentary committees.

The new relationships encouraged by WFD will benefit MPs and committee staff, as well as the people affected by the issues Indonesian civil society are trying to change. By training organisations on evidence-based advocacy and MPs or parliamentary staff on the importance of an open, transparent and consultative policy making process, these principles can be applied to any policy area in the future.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



WFD supports the Global Legislative Openness Conference by facilitating parliamentary delegations from Uganda, Kenya, Montenegro, Jordan, Morocco and Ghana at held in **Ukraine**



WFD helps political parties address self identified problems through launch of Transforming Political Governance Facility in **Kosovo**



New WFD programme launched in **Macedonia**, funded by UK embassy to support reforms that restore public confidence in institutions



WFD and ActionSee network launch '**Regional Roadmap for Good Governance**' recommending actions to improve transparency in each country in the region



Regional 'Network of Parliamentary Committees' representing six parliaments in the **Western Balkans** join World Bank initiative on reviewing legislation

APR



Parliament of **Ukraine** adopts new bill to introduce mid-term budget planning following a WFD programme of activities including a Budget Committee visit to Westminster



WFD partners with the UK Local Government Association to support local councils in **Kyrgyzstan**

MAR

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Monitoring public finances

One of the most important roles parliament can play is checking public money is used efficiently and transparently. From independent analysis of national budgets to dedicated parliamentary committees, WFD has a long track record of helping partner institutions develop ways to hold government accountable and build public trust.

In **Ukraine**, WFD continued to partner with the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) and its Financial Economic Analysis Office (FEAO) – itself the result of previous WFD programmes in the country. In 2017-18, the Financial Economic Analysis Office consolidated its reputation as a parliamentary institution, with the Committee for State Building and Local Self-Government requesting and using FEAO analysis to challenge the executive's proposal on public service reform. This had incorrectly showed a 30% increase in public sector wages and demanded cuts, when in fact remuneration had not increased.

In February 2018, WFD shared the approach of UK institutions with similar responsibilities (the Scrutiny Unit, Treasury Committee, Public Accounts Committee and National Audit Office) with the Ukrainian Budget Committee. The Financial Economic Analysis Office developed bespoke research into mid-term budgeting for the Committee to use following the visit. As a result, Committee members introduced reform proposals in the Parliament, including the establishment of a dedicated Financial Audit Committee. In February 2018, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted government bill No.8099 that introduces mid-term budget planning. Mid-term budgeting is an indispensable element of the system of state strategic planning being formed in Ukraine and is instrumental for improving budget forecasting.

In the **Western Balkans**, 2018 saw the end of WFD's three-year programme to improve parliamentary oversight of public finances. The Parliamentary Budget Office in **Serbia**, established with WFD support in 2015 as part



ActionSEE network presents country level recommendations to Western Balkan parliaments.

of the programme, has enhanced the amount and quality of evidence and information available to legislators to improve budget oversight, analysis on national budgets and government economic policies.

“ The help of WFD has been remarkable. The work of the Budget Office was used by MPs from the ruling coalition and the opposition, supporting the work of this committee and Parliament as a whole. ”

Predrag Sekulic, Chair of the Committee for Economy, Finance and Budget – Parliament of Montenegro Using evidence to promote human rights

In November 2017, under the same programme, the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Economy Finance and European integration (NPC), with WFD and World Bank support, organised a regional conference on methods to improve scrutiny of legislation in Western Balkans Parliaments. Delegations from eight parliaments, including MPs, parliamentary committee clerks, Budget Office researchers, and Supreme Audit Institutions identified the best methods for monitoring public finances, common challenges, and solutions to strengthen legislative scrutiny. As a result of the two-day conference, the NPC finalised the performance framework a detailed plan of next steps for participating parliaments.

In **Macedonia**, with support from the UK embassy, WFD helped the State Audit Office, responsible for inspection of government accounts, link up with media and advocacy organisations to promote the use of audit reports as evidence. In December 2017 and March 2018, WFD organised training for media

outlets on the use of financial information in reports on transparency. This led to a significant increase in media coverage using audit reports as part of investigations.

In **Georgia**, WFD brought together community organisations promoting transparency with relevant parliamentary committees to help review the draft budget, based on evidence collected by the organisations and on international standards. As a result, in June and October 2017, parliamentary committees made recommendations to government.

Enhancing parliamentary transparency and accountability

In November 2017, WFD launched a Regional Road Map on Good Governance for the Western Balkans to support democratic institutions become more transparent and accountable in **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro** and **Serbia**.

In addition, as part of ActionSEE – a network of organisations advocating for greater transparency funded by the European Union – WFD developed a regional index on openness which takes parliamentary transparency into account. Members of the network are now working to include these recommendations in their 2018 Open Government Partnership National Action Plans, an international initiative that encourages governments to commit to measures that promote transparency and end corruption through open practices and policies.

Using evidence to promote human rights

A WFD programme to support human rights organisations to advocate for new laws in **Macedonia** ended in February 2018. This was funded by the European Union and was launched in May 2016. Under the programme, WFD supported ten local organisations to use better evidence as part of their advocacy

work. In the final year of the programme, WFD developed specialised toolkits on advocacy in the Assembly of Macedonia and guidelines for civil society organisations to prepare for giving evidence to parliament.

Several of the evidence papers submitted to parliament through the programme have made significant progress influencing legislation. For example, changes to the Law on the Prevention and Protection against Discrimination proposed by the Institute for Human Rights were incorporated into the draft law with positive feedback from the Venice Commission, which provides advice to states on making legal and institutional structures in line with European standards. The law is due before government and the Assembly in the coming months and is expected to be adopted.

The proposal to introduce fines for media outlets that use hate speech from Jef Macedonia (an independent, not-for-profit organisation committed to promoting political activism among young people) was incorporated into a new media law, currently being discussed at committee level in the Assembly of Macedonia.

Wilson's Macedonia, an organisation that advocates for increased support for patients who suffer from rare diseases, are also in discussion with the Ministry of Health on a national action plan for rare diseases.

Good governance at the local level

In September 2017, in partnership with the UK's Local Government Association, WFD launched a comprehensive programme of support to enhance the role of the Kyrgyz Union of local self-government in representing councils to central authorities. This forms part of WFD's ongoing initiative supporting city councils in Batken, Naryn and Balychy.

Transforming political party governance

Trust in political parties is at an all-time low in **Kosovo**. Ideology plays a limited role and, political parties are often defined by ethnic divisions reflecting the 1999 conflict. This unique context called for an innovative approach to political party support, where WFD engages parties on a cross-party basis.



In Kosovo, the policy paper on the disqualification of suspected criminals was presented at a workshop in February 2018.



Cross-party delegation from Kosovo visit UK Electoral Commission.

In 2017-18, WFD commissioned a leading expert in political party regulation to research and write a policy paper on the disqualification of known and suspected criminals in the electoral processes. The paper set out three options for reform which will be considered by Kosovan political parties in 2018-19.

WFD also launched the Transforming Political Governance Facility, a fund which helps political parties address self-identified issues. For example, the AKR party – a liberal minded political party – worked on issues of internal democracy and sister party engagement. In January 2018, a workshop was delivered by the former Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Ben Williams OBE, who shared his experience on policy coordination and communication within political parties. Several AKR members also visited Lib Dem headquarters in London, where they saw policy co-ordination and communication in practice. They also had an opportunity to meet high-level party officials to establish sister party relations.

CASE STUDY

ESTABLISHING A DEDICATED AUDIT COMMITTEE IN UKRAINE

Following the 2013-2014 popular uprising known as the Revolution of Dignity, reform of Ukraine's institutions is a priority for the country's political class. Parliament's capacity to hold the executive to account, especially where public expenditure is concerned, is a key area where international co-operation can make all the difference.

This is why in January 2016, a WFD initiative funded by the German government helped establish the Financial Economic Analysis Office - a parliamentary institution to provide fiscal analysis to Members of Parliament which is independent of government. Building on this, later in 2016, WFD started to engage members of parliament responsible for monitoring fiscal policy, including the Budget Committee.

In 2017, the Budget Committee requested WFD's support to improve members understanding of an effective public accounts function. Drawing on the UK Parliament's long tradition of monitoring

public expenditure (with the first standing committee established in 1862), WFD organised a learning visit for parliamentary staff and members of the Budget Committee to London.

This visit took place in February 2018 and comprised of meetings with the Public Accounts Committee, the Scrutiny Unit, and Treasury Committee within the House of Commons. Meetings with the UK National Audit Office and HM Treasury were also arranged.

Reflecting on the visit, Deputy Head of the Budget Committee's Secretariat, Inna Knyshenko said: "I now fully grasp how the British oversight model works. Previously, a lack of understanding of this model hindered its proper consideration and adoption in our country."

Exposure to the UK model of assessing public expenditure, influenced the delegation



Ukraine Financial Economic Analysis Office presents analysis to budget committee on mid-term budget proposals.



Members of the Budget Committee in the Ukrainian Parliament listen to recommendations from the Financial Economic Analysis Office on mid-term budget proposals.

enormously, so much so that Ukrainian MPs tabled reform proposals as soon as they return. “We definitely want to revise the current composition of the parliamentary committees and their mandates”, Ivan Krulko MP who participated in the visit said. “Establishing a dedicated audit committee to increase the accountability of the Government in regard to their spending of public funds is essential.”

“We want to revise the mandates of two parliamentary committees - the Budget Committee and the Committee on Tax and Customs Policy - in relation to the formation of the draft budget,” Mr Krulko explained. “Limited co-operation and cases of miscommunication between the Committees negatively affect the overall budget process and budget forecasting.”

“Establishing a dedicated audit committee to increase the accountability of the government in regard to their spending of public funds is essential.”

Ivan Krulko MP

The Budget Committee also played a crucial role in persuading parliament to appoint a new Chairman and members of the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine (ACU). The appointments, made shortly after the visit to the UK, demonstrated how the trip had galvanised committee members and strengthened their commitment towards better scrutiny over public funds.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



First ever anti-corruption strategy, developed with WFD support, unveiled by Kurdistan Regional Government in **Iraq**



Parliament of **Jordan** repeals Article 308 which protected rapists from punishment by marrying their victims and approves updated domestic violence bill following intense campaigning including from members of the Coalition of Arab Women MPs



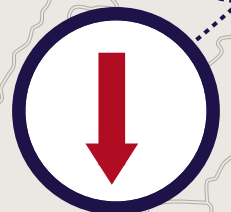
WFD supported **Coalition of Arab Women MPs** uniting legislators from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Iraq, Djibouti, Sudan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Libya to reconfirm commitment to a regional treaty to end violence against women and girls



Parliament of **Tunisia** approves law to end violence against women as part of wave of landmark changes in the region supported by the Coalition of Arab Women MPs



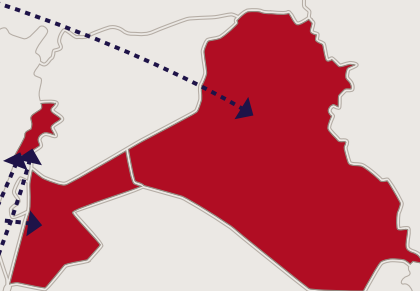
Parliament of **Lebanon** repeals Article 522 which protected rapists from punishment by marrying their victims following on-going campaigns, including from members of the Coalition of Arab Women MPs



Parliament of Lebanon adopts new law on oil and gas taxation as a result of WFD engagement with the Public Works and Energy Committee



Parliament of **Morocco** approves law to end violence against women as protections for women's right grow in the region



New rules of procedure adopted to revolutionise parliamentary practice in **Moroccan** House of Councillors following WFD support preparing new guidelines for parliament



Tunisian Ministry for Women, Family and Childhood and Coalition of Arab Women MPs adopts 'Tunis declaration' backing the Draft Arab League Convention to end Violence Against Women and Girls



Second draft of the Arab Convention to Combat Violence Against Women and Girls and Domestic Violence, adopted by **Women's Committee of the Arab League** following WFD engagement with the Coalition of Arab Women MPs

MAR

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Helping protect women and girls from violence

In 2017-18, WFD continued to support the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to Combat Violence Against Women – a network of women parliamentarians from 13 countries – with impressive results at both national and international level.

“There is a burden on us to act diligently and seriously in fulfilling the responsibilities to our societies and to our women.”

Naziha el Obaidi, Minister for Women, Family and Childhood in Tunisia at the regional meeting of the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to Combat Violence Against Women held in Tunisia, November 2017

The second draft of the Arab Convention to Combat Violence Against Women and Girls and Domestic Violence, a regional treaty that calls on all signatories to end gender-based violence, was submitted by the Arab League Women's Committee for consideration.

Significant progress was also made in **Lebanon**, **Jordan** and **Palestine**, where legislation that allowed rapists to escape punishment by marrying their victims was repealed (penal code art. 522 in Lebanon, art. 308 in Jordan and art. 308 in Palestine). WFD equipped members of the Coalition with the research capacity and the support they needed to influence colleagues in national parliaments. For example, in Palestine, WFD commissioned an expert study on the impact of discriminatory legislation on women to increase awareness about such legislation in parliament. Coalition meetings, organised

with WFD support, took place in November and December 2017 to allow members to share their experiences and co-ordinate political action at national and regional level.

Principles of the Arab Convention

The draft Arab Convention:

- calls for a change in cultural attitudes towards women as well as eradication of legislation that enforces gender-based discrimination
- addresses all forms of violence against women and girls, including women in politics
- tackles the root causes of violence against women and girls
- provides detailed prevention and protection mechanisms to help implementation during times of peace and conflict



Wafa Bani Mustafa, Chair of the Coalition of Arab Women MPs to Combat Violence Against Women, speaking at the Stop Violence Against Women in Politics Conference in March 2018.

CASE STUDY

HOW RAPISTS ESCAPE PUNISHMENT: THE CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE IRAQ'S PENAL CODE



Intisar El Jabbouri encouraged people to march peacefully to raise awareness about Article 398 in Iraq.

As part of WFD's work with the Coalition of Women MPs, individual advice is given to members of the Coalition to initiate change in their own countries. WFD worked with lawmakers in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Palestine to champion changes to discriminatory laws that perpetuated violence against women and girls.

Iraqi law couldn't be clearer: prosecutions against rapists can be shelved, and sentences already passed can be quashed if and when the perpetrator marries their victim. "When I was a lawyer", Intisar El Jabbouri recalls, "the first thing the judge would ask the rapist is: do you agree to marry her? If they said yes, they would be freed". With WFD support, Madam Intisar, now a Member of Parliament representing Nineveh province, is lobbying to change the law.

During her many years working in the courts, she had seen Article 398 of the Iraqi penal code invoked again and again. "The judge would help the rapist to get away and turn the victim into someone to be blamed" she recalls. Defenders of the status quo argue this is a question of protecting honour. But "the victim is being forced to cover up the issue and stop talking about it. And she has to marry someone she doesn't generally want to. The penal code has many articles that perpetuate inequality or discrimination against women. Article 398 is very dangerous because it doesn't respect the dignity and humanity of a woman, by limiting her liberty to choose who she marries."

In November 2015, when Intisar travelled to Beirut to attend a meeting of the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to

Combat Violence Against Women, she was shocked by what she heard. The meeting's focus was on the campaign to abolish the Lebanese equivalent to Article 398. "The Coalition made me pay attention to this" Intisar remembers. "It made me realise how important it was to change it". She quickly obtained the signatures of 66 MPs who supported her proposal to change the penal code in the Iraqi Parliament. This was presented to the Speaker, who subsequently sent it to the Legal and Justice Committee for scrutiny.

Since then, Intisar continued her valuable work to revoke Article 398 of the Penal Code with WFD support. In 2017-18, a survey, information leaflet and peaceful march were organised to raise support for the repeal of the legislation with the public. Intisar successfully joined up with local organisations campaigning for change to ensure the message reached as many people as possible. She also hosted a series of round-table meetings with parliamentarians, government

representatives, advocacy organisations, religious figures, scholars and judges.

While justice for rape victims is yet to be reached in Iraq, Intisar's vital work draws legitimisation from the achievements of fellow Coalition members and women campaigners from across the region. The successful repeal of rape marriage clauses in Lebanon and Jordan in August 2017 shows how with perseverance and solidarity change can occur.



Women in Iraq listen to Intisar El Jabbouri explain the campaign to change Iraq's penal code.

Helping eradicate corruption

More transparent management of national wealth is important to fight corruption. It is a feature of democratic governance and of the power of parliamentary oversight, as opposed to autocratic, unaccountable government.

With the recent discovery of deep sea gas fields off the coast of **Lebanon**, WFD support to the Public Works and Energy Committee (PWEC) led to a new law on oil and gas taxation being passed by Parliament in September 2017. The law will ensure more transparent management of revenues from the extractives industry.

WFD's programme shared best practice from the industry, including from Nick Butler, former Group Vice President for Strategy and Policy at BP and a former senior policy adviser to the UK Prime Minister. Exposure to international best practice encouraged constructive engagement between relevant ministries and the parliamentary committee responsible for oversight of this area, and led to an informed debate.

“ The discovery of oil and gas in Lebanon, means significant changes and a lot of reforms are required. The Parliament must play an important role in this process and the collaboration with WFD allowed for this to take place. ”

Mohammed Kabbani MP, Chair of the Public Works and Energy Committee

WFD also connected the Lebanese Coalition for Good Governance in the Extractive Industries,

a group of civil society organisations, with the Committee. As a result, the Coalition was invited to attend and participate in the meetings of the parliamentary sub-committee tasked to review the Oil and Gas Onshore Bill.

In **Iraq**, the inclusive anti-corruption strategy developed with WFD support in early 2017 was adopted by the Council of Ministers in the Kurdistan Regional Government in May 2017. Due to the deteriorating security situation following the Kurdistan independence referendum in September 2017, WFD's programme was suspended but we remain committed to continue to engage with institutions in Baghdad and Erbil.

Using technology to improve openness of parliament

Technology can improve the relationship between citizens and elected representatives. IT solutions available to parliaments can contribute to building an image of openness and effectiveness, and improve accountability.

In **Jordan**, as part of EU Support to Jordanian Democratic Institutions and Development (EU-JDID), a multi-annual programme funded by the European Union, WFD is working to upgrade the IT infrastructure of Parliament to make it the most advanced in the region. As part of the plan, mobile devices were supplied to the Jordanian House of Representatives to put the institution on the path to become fully paper-free, as outlined in a new environmental policy hat was also developed with WFD support.

Parliament's role in sustainable development and protecting human rights

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognise that social, economic and environmental progress depends on effective and inclusive governance. Meeting the goals by 2030 can only happen if



WFD workshop explored the Sovereign Wealth Fund with the Public Works and Energy Committee in the Parliament of Lebanon in October 2017.

parliaments work together with government, civil society and the private sector.

In **Morocco**, WFD helped the upper house consider how parliament can meet the ambitious sustainable development agenda on climate change, gender equality and the reduction of inequalities.

Along with supporting the establishment of the Equity Committee, WFD developed a training toolkit on public policy evaluation for MPs and also supported parliament's initial efforts to engage in the Open Government Partnership.

A guide for parliamentarians on implementing the SDGs was developed, along with two studies. The first study analysed the correlation between targets on relevant goals and the legislation approved by the House of Councillors during the legislative year (2016-17). The second study, launched in January 2018, linked all the amendments introduced by legislators in the Finance Law

to individual goals. This will help ensure adequate funding is made available to meet targets such as, for example, ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls (SDG5) or mechanisms that raise capacity to combat the damage of climate change (SDG13).

In December 2017, WFD hosted a regional conference on Business and Human Rights in collaboration with the House of Councillors. This identified innovative ways for Parliament to collaborate with the private sector in the pursuit of greater respect for human rights in this area. Finally, in January 2018, with WFD support, the House of Councillors organised a parliamentary forum on social justice, which convened various representatives from national and local government, parliamentarians and campaigning organisations to re-think the Moroccan model of development in the context of decentralisation.

LATIN AMERICA

In 2017-18, the Foundation worked in **Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico** and **Venezuela**. The only programme implemented directly by WFD was Venezuela. UK political parties operated activities in Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico with WFD support (see pages 47-48 for details).

In Venezuela, over the last year, the ongoing political and economic crisis worsened, with hyperinflation, chronic shortages of basic goods and episodes of violence against the civil population. The constitutional crisis which pitted the president against parliament saw the National Assembly first marginalised by the establishment of a Constituent Assembly in July 2017 and then crippled by a decision of the judiciary to remove legislative and oversight powers from the elected body.

In this challenging context, WFD, in consultation with the British Embassy in Caracas, decided to continue operations, albeit adapting plans to a changed political environment.

WFD hosted workshops on climate change and gender equality in October 2017 and helped the National Assembly re-launch a sub-committee on Women and Gender Equality in March 2018 and run an internal communications campaign about gender equality.



WFD organised workshop with members of the research department in the National Assembly of Venezuela.

SUPPORTING THE INTERNATIONAL WORK OF UK POLITICAL PARTIES

The following pages of the report are dedicated to the international work of UK political parties supported by WFD. In 2017-18, the Foundation supported:

- The International Department of the Conservative Party
- The International Programme of the Labour Party
- The Scottish National Party WFD Office
- The Multi-Party Office (representing all other opposition parties in the UK House of Commons)

WFD and UK political parties have been working in partnership, designing and delivering parliamentary strengthening and sister party assistance, for most of the organisation's 25 years. During this time, WFD and the parties have developed a wide range of interventions and continue to adapt and innovate.



Heads of the Conservative, Labour and SNP international offices talk about the importance of sharing the experience of UK political parties worldwide at WFD's 25th anniversary conference in September 2017, London.

Programmes implemented by UK political parties complement the work undertaken by WFD in many regions of the world. Political parties can draw on a wealth of experience including policy development, candidate selection and campaigning. They are best placed to work internationally and support parties which share a similar political ideology and standing.

Traditionally, WFD supported UK political party international programmes on policy development, membership recruitment, organisation development, information management systems and external communications.

More recently and in 2017-18, UK political parties focused their international work on advancing women's political leadership and developing more inclusive political organisations, including with young people, people with disabilities, the LGBT+ community, and other minority groups.

Some of this work came together in the March 2018 London conference on stopping violence against women in politics (VAWP), which was organised by all UK political parties in the House of Commons and supported by WFD. You can read more about the event on page 59.

Complementing country-based initiatives and support, the UK parties provide support to international and regional peer-to-peer networks of political parties. These initiatives provide a platform through which officials and elected office-holders can share their experience, consider different approaches, and develop cross-national initiatives collaboratively.

In 2017-18, WFD supported the international programmes of UK political parties by allocating over £4m of their work. More information about WFD grants to UK political parties is on page 118.

THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY



WFD supports the work of the International Department of the Conservative and Unionist Party, the office responsible for relations with and support to sister parties at the international level. In 2017-18, the International Department of the Conservative Party focused mainly on developing and strengthening political networks in different regions of the world, as well as implementing party-to-party projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, Argentina, Ecuador, Lebanon and Mexico.

The Conservative Party approach to international relations and democracy assistance

The Conservative Party recognises that each country's needs and concerns vary widely. The UK model of democracy cannot be simply translated into the differing context of any other country. Nevertheless, British institutions and the Conservative Party's own organisation offer examples from which others can learn.

Since its establishment, the International Department has seen how sister parties adapt

“ At a time when democracy faces new challenges across the world, the work of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy has never been more important. Since its establishment, the Foundation has done valuable work to strengthen democracy in countries emerging from conflict and those facing other challenges. This work continues to be vital, because the values of democratic nations - fairness, justice and human rights - are ones which underpin every successful society. ”

Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party

and adopt Conservative Party approaches and ideas to fit their own cultural settings.

However, working with representatives from political parties in developing countries is not a one-way street it is mutually beneficial. The exchange between the Conservatives and parties sharing similar ideological positions in other countries can help strengthen UK democracy. For example, by finding new ways to engage the younger generation groups including women, ethnic minorities and other underrepresented communities.

The UK Parliamentary system is widely respected internationally, and our long history of democracy serves as a beacon of hope and freedom from which newly emerging and developing democracies draw strength. The experience of the Conservative Party suggests that working with politicians and representatives from political parties in other developing countries is mutually beneficial. By sharing our expertise, we can help strengthen citizen voices, particularly those of the younger generation, women, ethnic minorities

and other disadvantaged or disregarded under-represented communities. We help facilitate open communication, making leaders and governments more accountable and responsive.

Building political networks at regional level

Southern Africa Development Community Network – The Conservative Party supported the development of a network of centre-right parties across the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to enable political parties to develop regional initiatives and improve relations between countries. Support included organising a range of policy workshops and the delivery of technical training to officials. The network was established in January 2018. Since then, it has agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Conservative Party and it has defined a roadmap for further development.

Caribbean Democrat Union (CDU) – The Conservative Party continued to work with



The International Office of the Conservative Party host a panel session at the 2017 party conference with Conservative Governor Andrew Rosindell MP and WFD Chief Executive Anthony Smith.



In Ghana, the UK Conservative Party continued to support their sister party, the New Patriotic Party in 2017-18.

the network of centre-right parties from nine Caribbean countries on policy and on the representation of women and young people. Through Conservative engagement, the CDU developed a Women's Network to improve women's political participation. This will be launched formally in 2018. The youth wings of some of the sister parties involved in the network have also been adopting new tools for youth engagement, including online surveys.

Western Balkans Network (WBN) – The Conservative Party worked with sister parties across the Western Balkans to develop a centre-right political network. The Western Balkans Network (WBN) was officially launched in Albania, in February 2018 and it includes eight member-parties from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo. The purpose of the network is to encourage cross-country dialogue in a region where memories of conflict are still fresh.

Union of Latin American Parties (UPLA)
– In 2017-18, the Conservative Party started

partnering with UPLA to help them develop a women's network, with the aim of giving women's a greater voice within political parties in the region and to help more women get into political leadership roles. The network will be launched in June 2018. Additional work to support women political participation in the region included the provision of training for women politicians from 13 Latin American countries on communication skills and campaigning.

Party-to-party support

Argentina – The Conservative Party worked with the Republican Proposal (PRO) Party on political communications and institutional strengthening.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – The Conservative Party worked with four different centre-right parties on policy, women and youth participation, and capacity building. This included delivering a workshop to help women and youth candidates produce concrete policy proposals to present to their party's leadership.

Ecuador – International Department engagement with the Social Christian Party (PSC) of Ecuador led the PSC to relaunch its youth wing. The party has also developed a year-long training course aimed at equipping its younger members with the knowledge and skills they require to be effective political actors.

Ghana – In 2017-18, the Conservative Party implemented a pilot project to develop a policy forum within the New Patriotic Party (NPP), adopting the Conservative Policy Forum as an example of best practice in activating policy discussions at the grassroots level. Policy forum meetings were held in Tamale, Kumasi and Accra.

Lebanon – The Conservative Party has worked with the Lebanese Forces Party (LFP) on a stakeholder-led project about improving communications. The LFP sought to learn how UK parties communicate with their supporters and voters. As a result, the LFP developed a communication plan for engaging their grassroots. They began to produce newsletters that engaged their voters and party members.

Mexico – The Conservative Party trained 70 female and youth candidates of the National Action Party (PAN) from all around Mexico ahead of the elections, to equip them with the skills they require for running for office and be effective once in office, as well as exposing them to tools for engaging more women and young people in politics.

THE LABOUR PARTY WFD PROGRAMME



The Labour Party, through its Westminster Foundation for Democracy work, delivers a programme for sister and like-minded parties. The programme is underpinned with the Labour Party's values of social justice, equality of opportunity, fairness and human rights. Labour International Programme's focus is on capacity building, political education of parties and movements, and, crucially, fostering both regional and cross-regional political dialogue. In 2017-18, programme activities emphasised inclusiveness and equalities under the slogan 'A world for the many, not the few'.

Building political networks at regional level

Tha'era Women's Network – The Labour Party's work continued to support this network of women drawing progressives from across the Middle East and North Africa. During this period, members of the network faced a series of domestic elections. They put the skills and mentoring from the network into practise, with one being elected to Parliament in Morocco and another as a local councillor in Tunisia.

“ We are a party that believes in universal human rights - working for a world in which all citizens are respected and all are protected from discrimination and prejudice. Our work with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy is a reflection of this - ensuring an inclusive agenda, incorporating our international obligations with our values of social justice, solidarity and human rights, a world for the many and not the few. ”

Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of Opposition and Leader of the Labour Party

Women's Academy for Africa – The Labour Party programme continued to support this network which cuts across the African continent providing leadership training for women. A trainee from the Academy was invited to participate in the Annual Conference where she felt that exposure to the training helped her address challenges unique to women in politics and encourage other women to consider political leadership. The participant, who wished to remain anonymous, decided to stand for the Presidency of the Youth League in her political party.

SD9 – The International Programme continued to support this network for young people from the Western Balkans to run advocacy campaigns on ending Violence Against Women. The network produced a resolution committing progressive young people to campaign on this important topic. The SD9 network also organised a joint simultaneous Youth Plan Action campaign across the Western Balkans to raise awareness of the high levels of youth unemployment in the region. SD9 members in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia,

Montenegro and Slovenia all participated in this by organising visible campaigns in their respective countries.

LGBT rights and representation

Labour's International Programme supported practical exercises on how to bring change in the Western Balkans. This included organising a best practice session drawing on Labour's experience and proud record of achievement in government (equal age of consent; ending the ban on LGBT people serving in the armed forces; scrapping the homophobic Section 28 which prohibited local authorities from 'promoting' homosexuality; and becoming signatories of the Treaty of Amsterdam, which gave the EU powers to end discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation). Through these types of best practice exchanges, the Programme provided practical examples of change that can be brought about by progressive parties in government.

The Programme also provided outreach opportunities for the parties at a fringe



Members of the Women's Academy for Africa participate in a Labour Party activity in London.

event with Rainbow Rose at World Pride 2017 in Madrid. It was chaired by a member of the Labour Party's NEC and the panel comprised of party activists and networks from the Western Balkans advocating for a political and cultural shift on LGBT. It highlighted that work is needed to change political and public attitudes that lead to a more liberal and respectful society. Continuing with this work a further programme with a key focus on LGBT was organised around the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, underlying the need to address the equalities agenda.

Party-to-party support

In 2017-18, Labour's Programme provided a number of tailor-made needs-based projects providing best practice on party organisation; ranging from campaigning, to policy development, to communications and social media. The beneficiaries of this can further consolidate their structures and provide a choice at elections, contributing to WFD's mandate on democracies having multi-party-political systems. This is particularly important in challenging and hostile political environments with electoral irregularities and little freedom of expression. Much of this engagement focused in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and the Western Balkans.

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY WFD PROGRAMME



The Scottish National Party is a progressive, left-of-centre party with an internationalist outlook. The SNP have been in government for over ten years in the devolved Scottish Parliament, while in opposition in the UK Parliament (as the third largest party, since 2015). This unique position allows the SNP to share experience of devolution and the experience of being simultaneously in government and opposition.

The SNP's international work funded by WFD in 2017-18 focused on select projects to maximise depth of intervention and use limited funding effectively.

The SNP's approach to representation focuses on equality, particularly with regards to women's political representation. The SNP has a female party leader, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, and the UK's first gender-balanced cabinet, good practice the programme wished to share with partners who want to move closer to gender equality.

“ Since 1992, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy has been involved in very important work, promoting democracies throughout the world. It brings every UK political party together thereby drawing on a large amount of knowledge, which is necessary to strengthen democracies and associated institutions. The SNP as Scots are able to provide experience and knowledge of how states can make a transition towards a stronger democracy in a peaceful and consensual manner. ”

Rt Hon Ian Blackford MP, Leader of the Scottish National Party in the Westminster Parliament

The SNP-WFD team adopted a cross-party approach to programming, supporting a cross-party regional network in the Middle East and North Africa, a cross-party caucus in Malawi and hosting cross-party dialogue in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Building political networks at regional level

Add The Arab Women Parliamentarians' Network for Equality (Ra'edat) – is a network of 200 women legislators from 14 countries across the Middle East and North Africa. In 2017-2018, the SNP-WFD programme focused on helping build the network. This included training local staff for the Amman secretariat, providing legal support to help the Network gain registered NGO status, establishing a members' database and conducting research on the legislative and quota systems of the region.

Five members of the executive (sitting MPs from Palestine, Tunisia and Sudan, and former MPs from Bahrain and Jordan) attended the SNP's Autumn Conference in October 2017 and

became more familiar with the Scottish and UK Parliaments by watching proceedings first-hand in Holyrood and Westminster. Following work to consolidate the network, the SNP-WFD programme helped Ra'edat develop policy to advance gender equality in the region's legislatures. In March 2018, 27 members from 10 countries participated in a four-day workshop in Tunis to draft model policy surrounding women's political representation.

The Parliamentary Women's Caucus

Malawi – following a scoping visit in May 2017, the SNP-WFD programme started to support the Parliamentary Women's Caucus in Malawi. In October 2017, the head of the caucus, Dr Jessie Kabwila MP, was invited to visit Edinburgh and London to observe how the institutions of UK democracy work and help design activities to support the caucus.

Based on this exchange, the programme will focus on supporting members of the network as they prepared for the upcoming election campaign and the first meeting of the whole



Hannah Bardell MP for Livingston meets with the women's caucus in Malawi as part of the SNP-WFD programme.

caucus was scheduled for February 2018. This was attended by 25 of the 32 women Malawian MPs and featured a training session led by local experts in politics and communications, with additional contributions from SNP MP Hannah Bardell and the SNP Westminster Group's Head of Press. The workshop yielded a range of suggestions from the caucus on how the SNP WFD can continue engagement to support re-election of women MPs in Malawi's upcoming 2019 general election. The SNP WFD will continue to work with the caucus on their improved relations with the media, how to fundraise for their campaigns, and maintaining visibility to the electorate.

Iraqi Kurdistan - The SNP WFD, with Roger Mullin MP, made two visits to Erbil for cross-party roundtable discussions with the three main parties of the Kurdish Regional Government, to support Kurdistan's efforts to establish a functioning devolved Parliament again, and offer advice on the experience of holding a peaceful, democratic referendum. Iraqi Kurdistan held an independence referendum in September 2017. Unfortunately, the aftermath resulted in conflict, as well as elections being postponed, and the President resigning. In this context, the project was closed.

THE WFD ‘MULTI-PARTY’ OFFICE: SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT BY SMALLER UK POLITICAL PARTIES

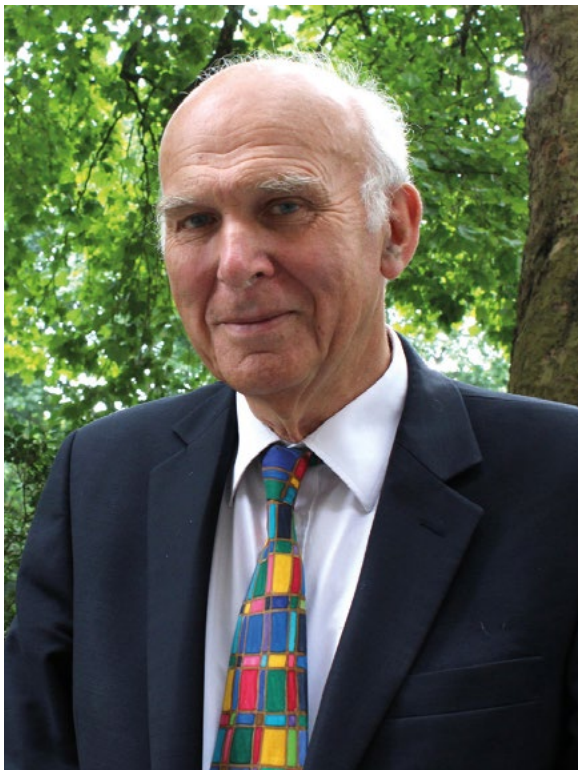
In 1999, WFD helped establish a shared service to provide pooled administrative and project-management capacity to the political parties with fewer seats in the House of Commons, which would have otherwise been unable to implement international programmes.

As of 2018, the Multi-Party Office (MPO) supports the Liberal Democrats, the Democratic Unionist Party, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party to undertake international engagement and development programmes around the world.

Programmes implemented by the smaller political parties in the UK House of Commons complement main Foundation programmes and the work of larger parties. By partnering with small opposition parties in countries

dominated by one or two major political parties, Multi-Party Office programmes help build truly multi-party democracies. They share political experience that is relatable and can be adapted to local context by minority political parties campaigning on specific issues or representing a certain region or group.

Multi-Party Office programmes are partnerships that share experiences, learning and best practice. Smaller UK parties work with their sister parties and regional networks to enhance internal party rules and procedures, strengthen party branches, improve membership outreach practices, adopt evidence based and inclusive policy development processes, and increase opportunities for participation by historically marginalised groups.



“ At a time of such volatility across the world, the Foundation’s role is critical - now more than ever - and I wish it continued success as it carries out its important work. ”

Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Party programmes



In 2017-18, the **Liberal Democrats** continued their work with the Africa Liberal Network (ALN), Africa's largest affiliation of liberal political parties, with workshops and trainings throughout the year. In May 2017, the ALN and a Lib Dem consultant provided campaign training and mentoring to a female Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) candidate and her ten-person team in Kenya in the run-up to the 2017 election.

Building on its longstanding sister party relationship with the Democratic Alliance (DA) in South Africa, the Lib Dems undertook two days of training in July 2017 for the DA Young Leaders' Programme class of 2017. The training, attended by 19 participants from across South Africa, covered the areas of policy development and presentation skills. The Lib Dems supported a delegation of the top graduates from the 2017 class to attend the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Congress in Amsterdam in December 2017. A series of meetings with key European liberals and international youth organisations were arranged for the graduates, with the purpose of deepening the connection between the DA and the wider liberal family and to give these two young people a sense of the wider international context and an opening into the world of international liberalism.



The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) launched a new project with the Conservative Party of Georgia (CPG)

on the development of a credible and comprehensive disabilities policy. The CPG has created a working group to review the research report commissioned by the project and to begin focused consultations with relevant stakeholders in advance of drafting a policy document.



**Plaid Cymru
Party of Wales**

Plaid Cymru started a new Violence against Women in Politics project in Argentina with a three-member delegation, led by Liz Saville Roberts MP, attending a workshop on this topic in Buenos Aires in November 2017.

The sessions focused on the prevalence and scale of the problem, including the online abuse of politically active women; existing mechanisms that address the issue; and gaps in the system with recommendations for strengthening structures in both countries. Plaid Cymru produced a research paper on the online abuse of UK politicians, a clear deterrent to young women considering entering politics, which was disseminated at the event.

Recognising that violence against politically active women in politics is widespread, and that no country or political party is immune from the problem, the Multi-Party Office leveraged the support of all seven political parties in Westminster to organise a two-day international summit on Violence against Women in Politics in London in March 2018. It hosted 54 speakers from over 20 countries, including high-profile speakers from across the UK political spectrum, as well as leading international activists, experts and academics. The objective of the event was to identify and build consensus around practical measures that bodies with authority and responsibility can take to prevent and address violence against women's activism and leadership in politics and public life.



Green Party

In the run up to elections in Kenya and Rwanda, the **Green Party of England and Wales** organised a campaign training for members of the East Africa Greens Federation (EAGF) in Kampala in

June 2017. Election candidates developed week-by-week campaign strategies, including pledges, key messages and communications

material. The workshop also produced a regional campaign strategy on Green Economy, including priority issues and messaging as well as a Youth Strategy and a Women's Group Action Plan.

The Young Greens also launched a new project with the youth wing of the Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM) party, known as MODOM. A two-day workshop was held in Skopje in March 2018, where representatives from both youth wings shared experiences and lessons on capacity-building, membership recruitment and retention, and engaging in more campaign activism.

Cross-party programmes

The WFD Multi-Party office leveraged the experiences and regional expertise of the UK political parties to support the decentralisation process in Ukraine through a joint project with WFD's Research Programme. A workshop was held in July 2017 in the Baranivska region of Ukraine, where WFD had been supporting the amalgamation process through the Civil Society Institute. With a new local council appointed, the

MPO facilitated the sharing of UK experience of local government management and rural economic development. The local councillors and community leaders were assisted in the development of the district's strategic plan and budget. The two Scottish delegates shared lessons on: building trust and mechanisms for citizen participation; ways to increase economic activity and youth employment in a rural environment; and developing a shared community identity.

Programmes closed in 2017

Following the June 2017 general elections results changes in the composition of the UK House of Commons were reflected in the organisation of the Multi-Party Office.

After years of support and assistance from the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the People's Progressive Party (PPP) in Uganda had a very active final year of programming. Most significantly, the party has established over 25 local branches and elected branch Executive Committees across five districts.



Africa Liberal Network General Assembly in March 2018, Accra, Ghana.

The PPP developed a new policy framework, outlining the ten priority policy areas for the party, which a newly formed party think tank has advanced into more extensive party positions. The party also drafted a new party handbook, with direct input from the SDLP and MPO, outlining party structures, the role and management of party branches and ideas for fundraising. The PPP heavily invested in their social media platforms, increasing their followers from 515 to over 42,000.

The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) implemented a short-term project with its sister party in Ukraine, Samopomich. Women representatives from the UUP participated in an April 2017 workshop in Odessa on women's participation in local government, where the UUP shared their experiences of support mechanisms for women within the party. The workshop involved Samopomich local branch organisers and examined lessons from the UUP's women empowerment initiatives to improve outreach to grassroots groups and women.

ALL UK POLITICAL PARTIES COME TOGETHER TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS

As the number of women engaging in political activity has grown, so has the frequency and degree of violent responses to their presence in politics. On 19 and 20 March, UK political parties (Conservatives, DUP, Green Party, Liberal Democrats, Labour, Plaid Cymru and SNP) in partnership with WFD convened legislators and activists from 20 countries held a two-day conference in London to identify practical means to address violence against women in politics.

The cross-party conference of political and community leaders was initiated by the UK political parties, who chose to work together on this issue and involve their international partners. Unlike many political discussions that start with disagreement and discord, this conference opened with consensus: violence against women in politics must end.

Uniquely, the conversation was led by political practitioners, including members of parliament, political party leaders, civil society activists and leading academics. These are women who have chosen to become active in politics and public life who know and understand the breadth and impact of violent responses to their activism.

Over 50 speakers including party leaders, government ministers, legislators and civil society representatives from the UK and overseas discussed measures to combat violence and intimidation against politically active women.

The conference was opened by Liz Saville Roberts MP, Westminster Leader of Plaid Cymru, and saw the launch of a WFD Research report on violence against women in politics. This showed how, globally, politically active women

– voters, candidates, local councillors, members of parliament, bloggers and activists – regularly find themselves on the receiving end of acts or threats of violence.

The first session on Parliament's role and responsibilities in addressing violence against politically active women was chaired by Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge MP and saw contributions from Maria Caulfield MP, Vice Chair for Women (Conservative Party), Victoria Donda MP, President of the Commission on Human Rights (Argentina) and Cheryllyn Dudley MP, Chief Whip of Smaller Political Parties (South Africa).

A session on violence against women during elections included interventions from Hon Dr Nurhayati Ali Assegaf MP, Chairwoman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (Indonesia), Anne Marie Bihirabake, Vice President of the East African Greens Federation (Burundi), Fatma Khafegy, Founding Member of Tha'era Network (Egypt), Hon Juliana Lunguzi MP, Shadow Minister for Health (Malawi), and Cynthia Morrison MP (Ghana).

Caroline Lucas MP, Co-Leader of Green Party of England and Wales, Baroness Lorely Burt, Lords Shadow Secretary for Equalities for Liberal Democrats, Rhoda Grant MSP, Equality Spokesperson for Labour Party and Nino Gogvadze MP, First Deputy of Foreign Relations Committee (Georgia) discussed the cost of participating into politics for women.

Online abuse of politically active women was a highly debated topic and saw the participation of Leanne Wood, Leader of Plaid Cymru, Joanna Cherry QC MP, Christine Jardine MP, Jess Phillips MP and Iryna Podolyak MP (Ukraine).

Dawn Butler MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, opened the second day, which included a panel discussion on how women in party youth wings are affected, moderated by Ben Bradley MP, Vice Chair for Youth at UK Conservative Party. The panel heard interventions from Hannah Bardell MP, Jasmin Beckett, Youth Representative on Labour's National Executive Committee, Aimee Challenor, Equalities Spokesperson of the Green Party of England and Wales, Emmalin Pierre, Minister of Youth and Sport (Grenada) and Sioned Treharne, Co-Chair of the youth wing of Plaid Cymru.

Civil society perspectives on violence against politically active women were the topic of a panel discussion chaired by Tina Fahm, Commissioner at Independent Commission for Aid Impact, with Adelina Berisha from Kosovo Women's Network, Jo-Ann Downs, Chairman of the Board of NGO Bobbi Bear (South Africa), Dorothy Nalubega, President of East African Greens Federation Women's Network (Uganda), Gavin Newlands MP and Raquel Vivanco, Leader of the NGO 'Mumalá' (Argentina).

The last thematic panel discussed the role and responsibilities of political parties in tackling violence against politically active women. It was chaired by Dr. Mona Lena Krook from Rutgers University, with contributions from Rt Hon Ian Blackford MP, Westminster Leader of the Scottish National Party, Michelle Gildernew MP (Sinn Féin), Naomi Long, Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland and Jo Swinson, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Sue Inghish, WFD Governor and former BBC Head of Political Programmes led a session on recommendations from the conference, with Wafaa Bani Mustafa MP (Jordan), Emily Cunningham, UK Working Group on an Independent Complaints and Grievance Policy, Shamooin Hashmi, Joint Secretary of the National Assembly (Pakistan), Sarah Olney (Former MP, Liberal Democrats) and Amelia Womack (Deputy Leader, Green Party of England and Wales).

The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, Leader of the House of Commons delivered the closing remarks.



Cross-party support to end violence against women in politics.



Hon Juliana Lunguzi MP and Shadow Minister for Health, Malawi, speaking at the cross-party Violence Against Women in Politics Conference, March 2018, London.

The conference produced a rich collection of ideas, experiences, research and recommendations. Some prominent findings are listed below.

- Violence is one of the strongest and highest barriers keeping women out of politics. Globally, women pay a higher price for their participation in politics, including having to meet higher standards and facing more personalised forms of scrutiny and criticism.
- Social media platforms are facilitating growing levels of psychological violence as well as physical and sexualised threats.
- As candidates and elected officials, women experience threats and acts of violence from other political party actors as well as from within their own parties. Political parties must develop clear codes of conduct and take action to discipline members who are involved in acts of violence, whether against candidates and officials from other political parties or against their own.

- Threats and acts of violence tend to be even more pronounced when directed towards women from ethnic minority communities and those facing discrimination linked to disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, gender reassignment or other factors.
- Police often lack the authority, the ability and/or the desire to respond effectively.

In 2018-19, WFD and the political party programmes and offices affiliated to the Foundation, will continue to engage and lead on this important topic. We will work with global partners to help develop localised responses to bring an end to violence against women in politics, and to help create a 'new normal'.

'POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY': THE IMPORTANCE OF REVIEWING LEGISLATION

What is 'post-legislative scrutiny'?

Parliament has a responsibility to monitor the extent to which the laws it passed are implemented as intended.

Post-legislative scrutiny is an important tool for increasing government accountability and an essential part of the oversight role of parliament.

During 2017-18, WFD started to explore how parliaments monitor the implementation of, and review, existing legislation. Post-legislative scrutiny (PLS), often carried out by parliamentary committees, is a prominent feature of UK parliamentary democracy.

In April 2017, we convened an expert seminar in London with members of parliament and parliamentary staff from the UK, Switzerland, Scotland, Myanmar and Indonesia to discuss the two main dimensions of post-legislative scrutiny: legal assessment and the impact of policy.

The expert seminar resulted in the development of three publications:

- a Comparative Study on PLS systems and practices in 10 countries
- a Guide for Parliaments to support Committees in conducting PLS through four stages and 18 steps
- a policy document on 15 Principles for PLS in parliament

The publications supported activities and meetings to engage parliamentary staff and legislators in Algeria, Brazil, Indonesia, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, The Gambia, and Ukraine. In addition,

PLS was discussed with UK academics at the Political Studies Association annual conference in Autumn 2017 in Edinburgh.

Pilot projects on post-legislative scrutiny, including the drafting of manuals, adjusted for the relevant context were developed in Myanmar and Indonesia. It is hoped this process will bring outdated legislation, often left over from colonial rule, in line with the current context. A new pilot project will start in Georgia in 2018-19.

Effective parliamentary monitoring of the implementation of legislation can make a fundamental difference when it comes to achieving gender equality. In November 2017, WFD organised a workshop, hosted by the Scottish parliament, that brought together leading experts in parliamentary procedures, policy development and gender equality from more than six countries. It explored what best practice might look like in integrating gender analysis and post-legislative scrutiny.

Members of parliament, legal staff and gender specialists from Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan also discussed how legislation to end gender-based violence in the Middle East and North Africa and drafted a check-list to support monitoring at workshop in Beirut in January 2018.

Globally, most parliaments are passing legislation that is sound on paper. The challenge is in implementation. This is a particularly troubling problem when it comes to actualizing gender equality commitments, including statutes to protect women and girls from violence. WFD's work on PLS will assist partners in not only passing laws and statutes, but bringing them to life to the benefit of citizens.

THE WFD RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The WFD Research Programme studies thematic and programmatic issues with the principal aim of building the evidence base for and improving the quality of democracy assistance work.

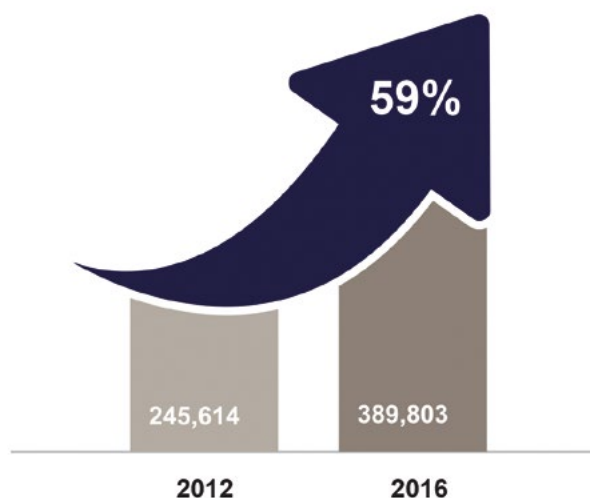
Does international democracy support work?

WFD's innovative research partnership with the University of Birmingham (formerly with Oxford University) continued to explore what works best in international democracy support with a paper exploring the phenomenon of closing political space. In September 2017, 'Defending democracy: when do parliaments protect political space?' highlighted three factors that influence how easy it is to motivate legislators to reject repressive laws: the existing level of democracy; the strength of international leverage; and the nature of the electoral system. These findings are helping WFD encourage parliaments to defend democracy more actively. The collaboration between WFD and the University of Birmingham has provided an anchor point for attracting funding for

new initiatives from other sources in 2017-18, including the establishment of the Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy (REPRESENT) in April 2018.

Cost of politics

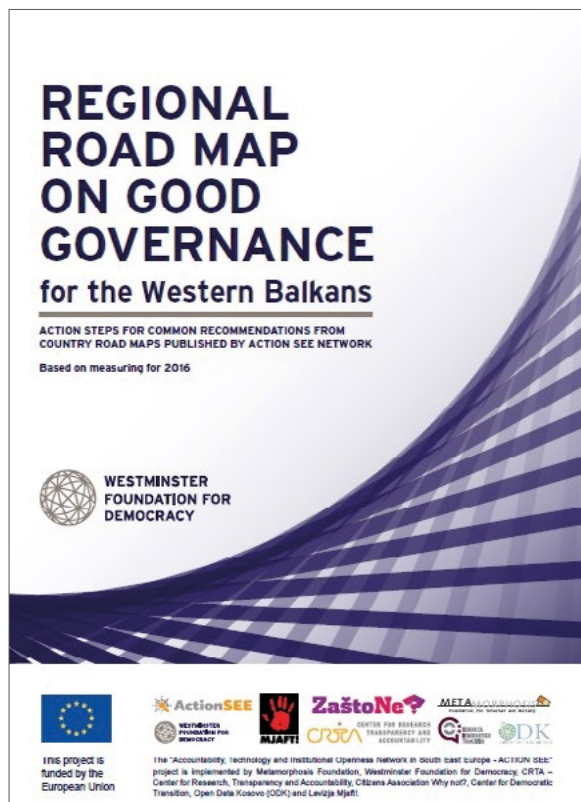
In March 2018, 'Cost of politics' research in Ghana revealed that in the 2016 electoral cycle, parliamentary candidates on average spent GH₵390,000 (US\$85,000) to secure their political party's nomination at the primaries stage and contest the parliamentary election. This average spend is a 59% increase on 2012 figures. Another 59% rise between 2016 and 2020 would prove a significant obstacle to entry and entrench the idea that politics is the domain only of the elite. This has implications for the political participation of women and young people. Heightened cynicism around the idea that political processes can deliver citizen led change is increasingly making political campaigns an 'auction of votes to the highest bidder' and less about competing visions for the future of the country. WFD is working on opportunities to refine and expand its methodology and research in other countries with a wide variety of partners.



Cost of politics in Ghana: latest research reveals a significant increase in the cost of participating in an election between 2012 and 2016.

Open Parliaments

The concept of open parliaments and trust were explored, in collaboration with the House of Commons in the UK and the Regional Openness Index with ACTION SEE in the Western Balkans. Findings suggest that while trust in political institutions is likely to remain elusive, we can encourage greater engagement and satisfaction of citizens through transparency efforts. But the quality of that transparency matters. Passive transparency, the publication of data, proceedings, and other documentation without description or explanation, is insufficient, and in worst cases, can be manipulated by those seeking to undermine trust in democratic



Regional Roadmap on Good Governance for the Western Balkans forms part of WFD's broader research into open parliaments.

institutions. What is needed instead is active transparency where parliaments and political parties are not only open about their activities but actively communicate the rationale, purpose, and outcome of these activities. Through our partnership with OGP and others, WFD looks forward to supporting this transition and the emergence of truly open parliaments and political parties.

Violence Against Women in Politics

In collaboration with the international offices of the UK political parties, eight case studies explored experiences of violence against women in politics (VAWP) in different countries, feeding into a high-profile conference held in March 2018 in London. The resulting synthesis paper expanded on global discussions to counter efforts to exclude and silence women specifically (sometimes due to their political affiliation, but also, more often, because of their gender) from politics.

ELECTION OBSERVATION AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

Flawed elections can lead to a breakdown of trust in democracy. The entrenchment of political elites inevitably leads to the abuse of power, including state capture, corruption, and repression of their potential competition. This is why WFD's new strategy commits to strengthening electoral institutions, contributing to more credible, inclusive and peaceful elections.

WFD is the official body responsible for the recruitment and selection of UK election observers for EU and OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions (EOMs). In over 25 years of operation, the Foundation has also enabled international partners to observe UK national and local elections and was invited to observe important elections all over the world. As such it is ideally placed to expand programming to electoral assistance.

In 2017-18, WFD recruited UK election observers for missions to **The Gambia, Timor Lest, Kosovo, Kenya** (August and October 2017), **Liberia, Honduras, Nepal, Sierra Leone** and **El Salvador**.

In September 2017, WFD entered into a partnership with the Electoral Institute for

Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA). The partnership establishes a formal commitment to develop joint projects in sub-Saharan Africa which strengthen political organisations and enhance electoral and political processes at the local, national, regional and global level.

WFD also launched electoral assistance programmes in Lebanon and Sierra Leone.

In **Lebanon**, WFD, in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), trained first time candidates on campaigning methods and communication skills ahead of the first Lebanese elections in nine years.

In **Sierra Leone**, WFD's programme supported inclusive elections by working with women, young people and people with disabilities ahead of the March 2018 vote. A range of activities were implemented as part of this programme. Highlights include a two-day national youth conference to promote peaceful elections in December 2017, voter registration awareness for women by the All Political Party Women's Association and training to political parties on the development of inclusive manifestoes (more information is available on page 18).



People travel to cast their vote in the Honduras Presidential elections in November 2017.

CASE STUDY

HONDURAS: OBSERVING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



Election observation is based on international standards and the good practice of democratic States. It can help determine if free and fair elections really take place in a country.

International and domestic groups organise election observation and WFD is the sole recruiter for British observers to European Union (EU) election observation missions that aim to restore public confidence in the electoral process and deter fraud, intimidation and violence.

"I was in Honduras for ten days as part of an EU election observation mission", Rebecca Cox, a UK civil servant, recruited by WFD as a short-term observer for the EU mission to monitor the Presidential election in Honduras in November 2017, said: "I was sent to a small town in the mountains with a Latvian partner as observers always work in teams of two".

"On election day we visited 11 polling stations to observe whether procedures were being followed correctly" Rebecca explained. "In each one we filled in a form and transmitted it by phone whenever we had coverage." Monitoring elections relies on a set methodology based on international principles of what constitutes a credible election. "The findings of all observers are collated at the end of the day to produce quantitative statistics", Rebecca said. Large international observation missions, like the EU, compile a report based on the experience of observers who cover specific geographic locations. The report can be a place to raise recommendations on how the electoral process can improve.

"We did not see significant problems in our area on election day, but we did hear first-hand accounts of the threats made to people that they would lose out on government aid programmes if they did not vote for the incumbent party" Rebecca added. A preliminary statement is also prepared, as Rebecca explained: "the Mission flagged the inequality of resources during the campaign, noted that election day was generally peaceful, and awaited the final results before issuing a final report".

The EU mission, of which Rebecca was a member, concluded that 'vote counting in polling stations respected voters' will'. The full report included 15 recommendations for future improvements.

“On election day we visited 11 polling stations to observe whether procedures were being followed correctly”

Rebecca Cox, short-term observer for EU mission to Honduras

DEMOCRACY UK: GLOBAL VALUES IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD - WFD'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

On 12-13 September, WFD marked its 25th year of operation with an international democracy assistance summit in the Foreign Office and in the Houses of Parliament in London. The conference focused on what lessons the world is learning about sustaining democratic change when democratic freedoms are being squeezed. It also served to launch a new strategy for WFD and a partnership on elections.

Almost 200 delegates from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas took part in the event, which was opened by a message from then UK Foreign Secretary Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP and keynote speeches by Mark Field MP, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, Liz McInnes MP, Shadow Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister and Hanna Hopko MP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (Parliament of Ukraine).

Baroness D'Souza and Dame Margaret Hodge MP chaired a panel discussion on the UK role in supporting democracy worldwide. This heard interventions from Wafaa Bani Mustafa, Chair of Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to Combat Violence against Women, Hon Aaron Mike Oquaye, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, Hon Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka and Dr Bronwen Manby from the London School of Economics.

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP chaired a panel discussion on how democracy can help deliver prosperity and stability. Including contributions from Samson Itodo, representing Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth & Advancement (Nigeria), Hon Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Hon Hakim Benchamach, Speaker of the House of Councillors of Morocco, Nikola Dimitrov, Foreign Minister of Macedonia and Alina Rocha Menocal from the Overseas Development Institute.



Wafaa Bani Mustafa MP from Jordan and Chair of the Coalition of Arab Women MPs to Combat Violence Against Women, a WFD partner, addresses the Violence Against Women in Politics Conference in March 2018, London.



The relationship between security, stability and democracy support were explored on day two of WFD's 25th anniversary conference.

The Future of Democracy Support

With over 40 democracy assistance and development organisations in attendance, the second day of conference discussed the future of democracy support and served to gather feedback on the new WFD strategy.

Organised around six different themes (accountability and transparency, youth participation and leadership, security and stability, women's political empowerment, political parties and elections), a 'democracy marketplace of ideas' invited experts to highlight key challenges and ideas within these themes and the impact on broader democracy assistance.

Presentations were given on:

- Political Parties - by Kate Osamor MP, Shadow International Development Secretary, who spoke on behalf of all UK political parties working with WFD
- Security and Stability - by Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)

and Chair of the European Partnership for Democracy Board

- Women's Political Empowerment - by Wafaa Bani Mustafa MP, Chair of the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to Combat Violence against Women
- Youth Participation and Leadership - by Samson Itodo, Executive Director of Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth and Advancement (YIAGA)
- Accountability and Transparency - by James Deane, Director of Policy and Learning, BBC Media Action
- Elections - by Denis Kadima, Executive Director of Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA)

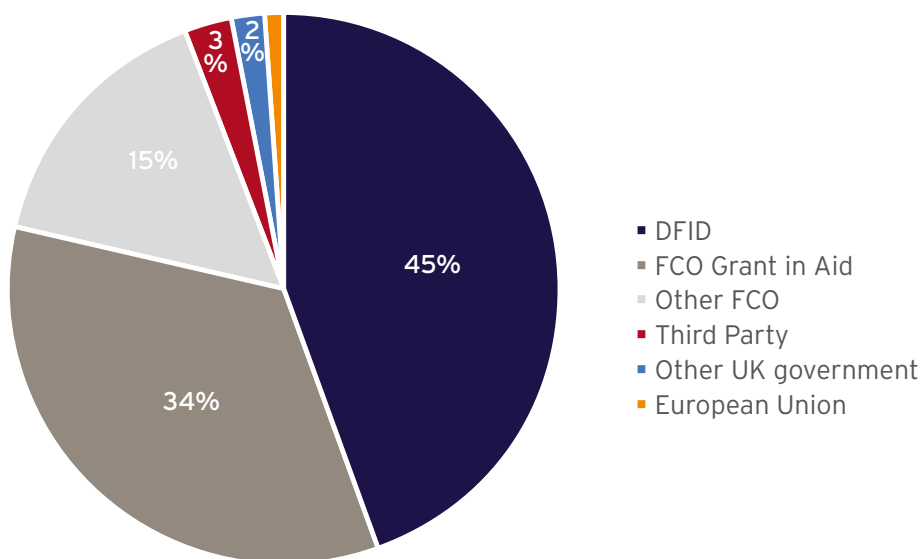
From promoting a 'universal' notion of democracy, to integrating IT professionals into electoral support, the complete list of challenges, actions and ideas will inform the implementation of WFD's [Strategic Framework](#) and provide a starting point for increased strengthening of effective, multi-party democracy around the world.

KEY RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

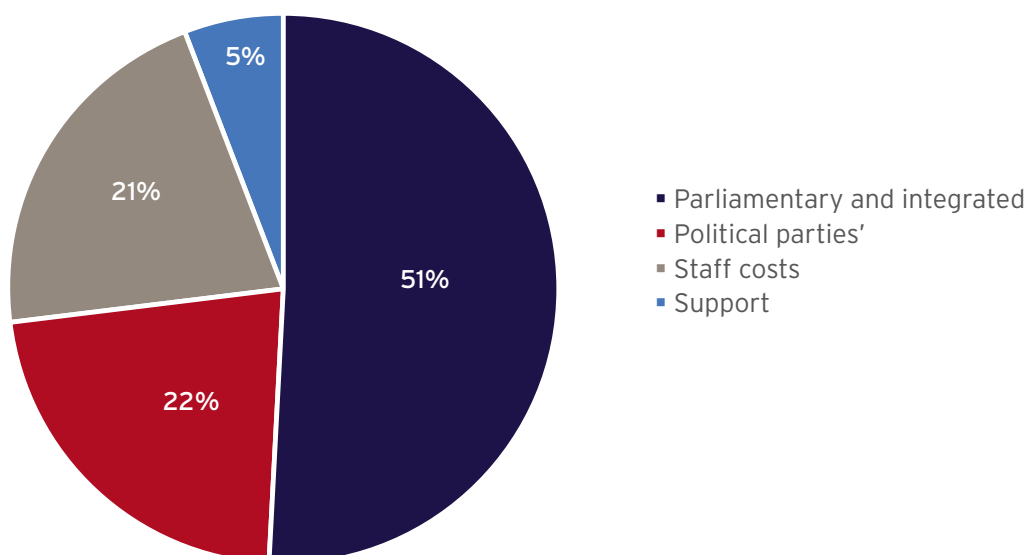
Working on political governance abroad is complex and often delicate, and the board acknowledges that accepting a degree of risk is a characteristic of WFD's work when setting its risk appetite. Without this it would not be possible for WFD to carry out programme work in a number of the jurisdictions in which we operate. WFD has in place a risk management framework to identify and to manage risks. Key risks and uncertainties are those that could have a material impact on WFD in carrying out its work. During the year these key risks were reviewed and regrouped under four categories: Financial, Impact, Reputational, and Governance. Risk management and key risks are reported in more detail on pages 89 to 91.

FINANCE REVIEW

Incoming resources for the year, including our Grant in Aid from FCO, totalled £10.4 million



Total expenditure for the year was £10.4 million



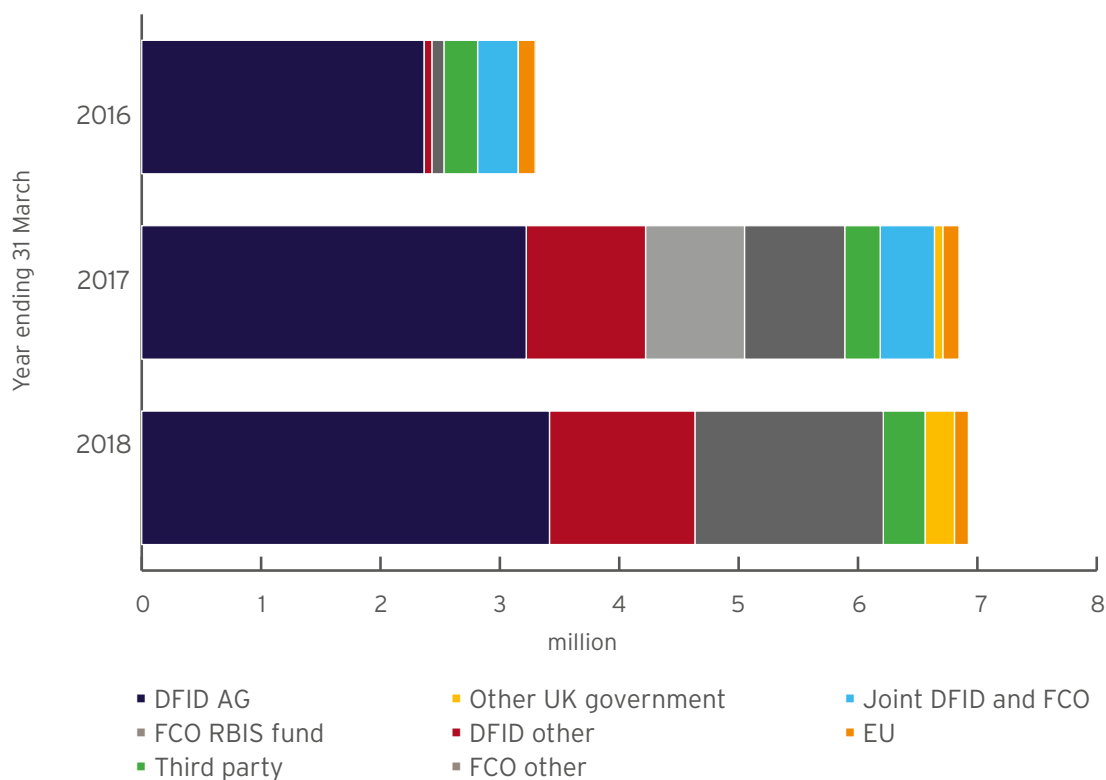
Income

Grant in aid

WFD receives an annual grant-in-aid from the FCO out of monies voted by Parliament, to enable us to achieve agreed objectives. As required by the Government Financial Reporting Manual, grant-in-aid is treated as financing and taken directly to the core funds reserve, as opposed to being recognised as income. The conditions of the grant-in-aid require that it be applied for according to need and be spent in the year to which it relates. In the current year the grant-in-aid was £3.5 million, consistent with previous years. FCO grant-in-aid for 2018-19 will continue at this level.

Other funding

The strong income levels achieved in 2016-17 have been maintained in 2017-18, with a small increase of £79k taking total income to £6.9 million. The rapid growth achieved in the last two years has resulted in current funding levels being over double those in 2015-16, with the number of grants being managed increasing from 13 in 2015-16 to 38 in 2017-18.



DFID

DFID continues to be an important strategic partner and funder for WFD programmes. In the current year, £3.4 million of income was recognised from DFID's Accountable Grant ('AG'). This was the final year of the three-year AG in which DFID committed £9 million to build democratic culture and practice in parliaments, and political parties that would support inclusive and effective governance. DFID have stated their intention to provide a further three-year Accountable Grant at a level that is being negotiated.

DFID also provided grants totalling £1.2 million in 2017-18 for WFD work in Myanmar, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. All will continue in 2018-19 with budgeted income of approximately £2 million.

FCO

In the prior year WFD received a one-off grant of £1 million from FCO's Rules Based International Systems (RBIS) fund. Despite the reduction from this source, overall FCO income levels have only decreased by £262k. Several grants continued from 2016-17, £582k of funding was awarded from the Arab Partnership Fund ('APF') for programming in Morocco (£454k in the prior year, joint from DFID and FCO), and new grants for programming in Bahrain, Laos, Macedonia, and Malaysia were secured. The existing APF grant continues for 2018-19 as will the grants relating to Bahrain and Macedonia, with total budgeted income of over £800k.

UK government

UK government funding from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) provided total income of £246k in 2017-18. This supported WFD programming in Algeria and Lebanon. The grant for Algeria continues and is expected to provide over £300k of funding in 2018-19.

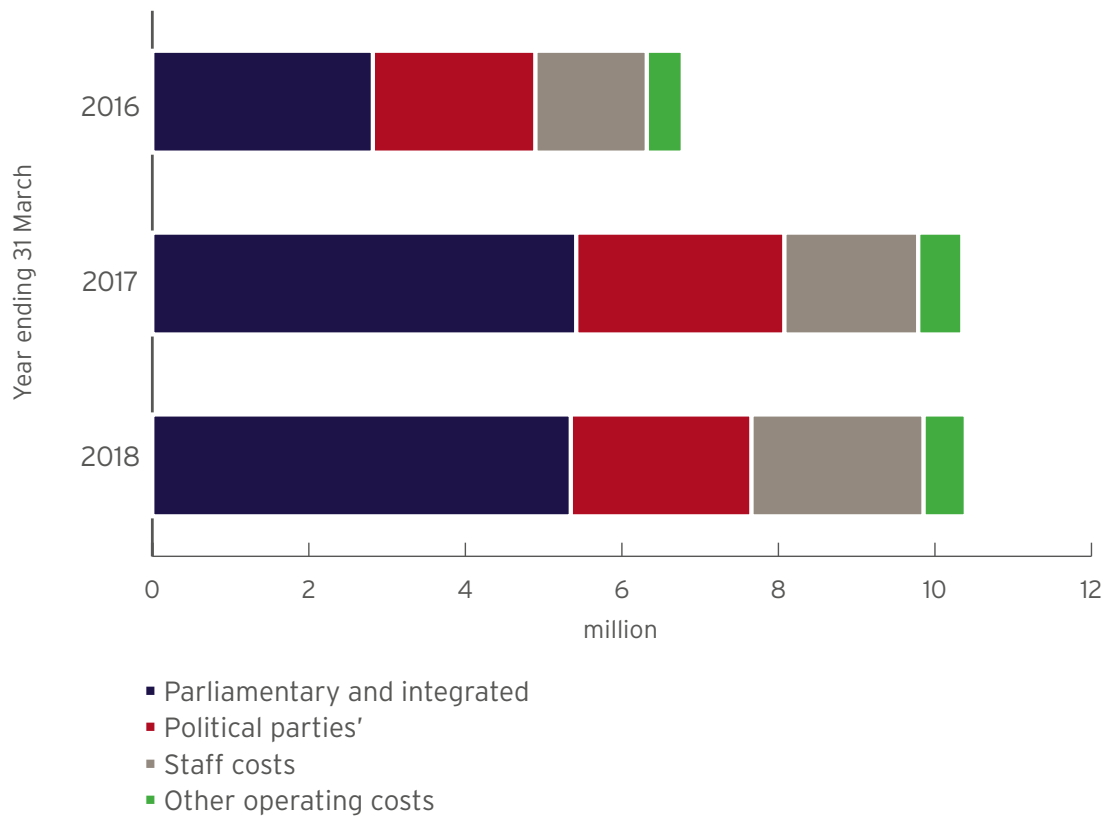
Following a successful bid, on 17 April 2018, £4 million was committed to a new WFD programme to build political engagement in 18 commonwealth countries over two years. The programme is funded by the Commonwealth 18-20 Fairness Fund, a fund made available by the UK for the period that it is the Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth.

Other

During the year EU funding totalling £117k was recognised. This relates to four grants to support programming in Jordan, Macedonia, Morocco, and the Western Balkans. The grants relating to Jordan and the Western Balkans will continue and new funding opportunities are already being secured, including grants for programming in Nigeria and South Africa, providing budgeted income from the EU of over £2 million for 2018-19.

Third-party income of £350k was recognised in the year. This related to 10 grants from a range of donors. A number of these grants continue in 2018-19 and new funding opportunities aligned with WFD's strategy will be pursued.

Expenditure



In line with income, total expenditure is consistent with the prior year at £10.4 million (2017: £10.35 million). This follows rapid growth in the prior year, with total expenditure levels increasing by 53% in 2016-17 from £6.8 million in 2015-16.

Parliamentary and Integrated projects

Parliamentary and integrated costs are all those that directly relate to WFD's programming, including all WFD staff working in our offices based outside of the UK. Spend of £5.3 million in the current year is consistent with last year (1% reduction) and it remains over half (51%) of our total expenditure (2017: 52%).

Political party offices

Political parties (PPO) receive an allocation of the grant-in-aid and the accountable grant received from FCO and DFID respectively. Each financial year funding is agreed and contracts between WFD and the relevant party are signed, specifying the amount and the conditions attached to the allocation. New contracts in respect of the financial year 2018-19 have been issued.

Total PPO funding of £2.3 million in the current year is £0.4 million less than in the prior year. This is mainly due to the additional allocations totalling £225k which the PPOs received in 2016-17 from the one off FCO RBIS funding. There was also agreed underspend by two of the PPOs in the current year, with allocated funding re-distributed by WFD.

Staff costs

Staff costs are for UK based WFD staff. As at 31 March 2018, WFD employed 37.3 full-time equivalent staff in the UK, of whom 19 were directly responsible for the design, management and delivery of programmes and for managing local and UK partnerships. The remaining staff support programming with monitoring and evaluation, finance, IT, HR, and business development. The UK staff also include the executive management team.

Total staff costs have increased by £0.5 million in the current year, to £2.2 million. This increase on the prior year is due to the rapid growth experienced in 2016-17, with a short lag in equivalent growth in staff capacity and capability. The volume, variety and complexity of WFD operations have all increased significantly. To continue to manage WFD's work effectively and deliver high quality programming we invested in the following:

- Technical advice unit – An advisory unit has been created to increase expertise to enhance programme design, directly deliver some aspects of WFD programmes, and to contribute to WFD's research programme. The team comprises a Senior Governance adviser, a Parliamentary adviser (post created in 2015), and a gender adviser.
- Monitoring and evaluation team – We increased the team from one to two to strengthen oversight of programmes and contribute to design.
- Finance – Three new finance positions were added to manage the more complex finance requirements and changing finance risks. This restructure was mostly completed by September 2017, with a final permanent team member joining in January 2018.

Current year costs have also increased to enable maternity cover through employing additional staff on fixed term contracts.

In 2017-18 staff costs were 21% of total expenditure which brings them back in line with 2015-16 levels (21%), with a 4% increase on the prior year (17%).

Other operating costs

Total other operating costs have reduced slightly on the prior year, down 4% to £0.5 million. Other operating costs represent 5% of total expenditure (2017: 5%, 2016: 7%).

Financial position and liquidity

There were no events during the year that adversely affected the financial position of WFD. Total net assets increased from £164k to £195k at 31 March 2018.

WFD's grant-in-aid funding requires the related cash balances to be minimised, with funding used in the year in which it is received. WFD applies for grant-in-aid periodically, typically bi-monthly, based upon cash flow forecasts.

Other funding arrangements are agreed on a donor by donor, grant by grant basis but with most providing funding in advance due to WFD's limited working capital.

During the year WFD cash and cash equivalents increased by £137k (2017: increase £165k), resulting in net liquid funds at 31 March 2018 of £1.28 million (2017: £1.15 million). Please see the Statement of Cash Flows in the Financial Statements for further analysis.

Regularity of expenditure

In spending public money, WFD operates in accordance with the principles of HM Treasury's Managing Public Money (MPM).

Losses and special payments (audited)

There were net realised foreign exchange losses totalling £11,632 in the year (2016-17: £nil). There were no other losses and no special payments in the year (2016-17: £nil).

Creditors

WFD adheres to the Government-wide standard on bill paying, which is to settle all valid bill within 30 days. In 2017-18, the average time taken to pay invoices was 19.3 calendar days (2017: 19.0 days). 99% of undisputed invoices were paid within the agreed credit terms. The proportion of the aggregate amount owed to trade creditors at the year-end compared with the aggregate amount invoiced by suppliers during the year was equivalent to 42.3 days (2017: 40.6 days).

On behalf of the board

Anthony Smith
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
July 2018

GOVERNORS' REPORT

Board of Governors

Governors who served on the board during the year and who were Directors under the Companies Act 2006 were:

Board Member	Appointment in the year	Resignation in the year	Appointment ends
Tasmina Ahmed-Sheik MP		28-Jun-17	
Rushanara Ali MP			26-Jan-19
Rt Hon Sir Henry Bellingham MP (Chair)			6-Apr-18
Ken Caldwell		24-Apr-17	
Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP			06-Jul-18
Patrick Grady MP	24-Mar-18		24-Mar-21
Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge MP			25-Aug-18
Thomas Hughes	24-Apr-17		24-Apr-20
Susan English	25-Apr-17		25-Apr-20
John Osmond		25-Apr-17	
Andrew Rosindell MP			17-Aug-19
Simon Walker			07-Dec-18

The following changes of governors occurred after year-end:

- Richard Graham MP was appointed as a Director and to the role of Chair of the board on 6 April 2018 for a three-year term
- Rt Hon Sir Henry Bellingham MP resigned as a Director and Chair of the board on 6 April 2018

All board members are required to declare any interests they may have to enable possible conflicts to be managed. No board member holds company directorships or has other significant interests which may conflict with their responsibilities. No board member has undertaken any material transactions with related parties. The Register of Interests is available to the public at WFD's registered office with 24 hours' notice.

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

During the year ending 31 March 2018 membership of WFD's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee comprised:

Thomas Hughes	Chair
Mark Babington (co-opted member)	Appointed 20-May-17
Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge MP	
Simon Walker	

Programme Quality Committee

During the year ending 31 March 2018 membership of WFD's Programme Quality Committee comprised:

Susan English	Chair
Rushanara Ali MP	
Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP	

Terms and Conditions Committee

During the year ending 31 March 2018 membership of WFD's Terms and Conditions Committee comprised:

Patrick Grady	Chair
Andrew Rosindall MP	
Tasmina Ahmed-Sheik MP	Resigned 28-Jun-17

Personal data

In 2017-18 there were no personal data related incidents.

Anthony Smith Chief Executive and Accounting Officer July 2018	Richard Graham MP Chair July 2018
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STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS' AND ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

In accordance with Company Law and with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Governors (who are also the directors of WFD for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Accounts Direction given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and relevant International Financial Reporting Standards.

Within the terms and conditions of a Management Statement agreed between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Governors of WFD, the Governors, through the Chief Executive, are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year on an accruals basis which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of WFD and of the incoming resources and application of resources, changes in taxpayers' equity, and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the financial statements, the Governors and the Accounting Officer are required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and to:

- a. observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, including relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis
- b. make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis
- c. state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statement
- d. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Governors and the Accounting Officer are responsible for ensuring:

- proper accounting records are kept which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of WFD and to enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Accounts Direction given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and relevant International Financial Reporting Standards
- the assets of WFD are safeguarded and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities
- sound financial systems and management controls are in place to safeguard public funds
- funds from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are used only for the purposes for which they have been given and in accordance with the Management Statement
- funds from the Department for International Development are used only for the purposes for which they have been given and in accordance with the relevant Accountable Grant
- funds from all other grants are used only for the purposes for which they have been given.

The Governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on WFD's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Accounting Officer

Sections 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 of the Management Statement define the Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs as Principal Accounting Officer. The Principal Accounting Officer has appointed the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer of WFD.

The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding WFD's assets, are set out in Managing Public Money published by the HM Treasury.

The Accounting Officer is required to confirm that the annual report and accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and that he takes personal responsibility for the annual report and accounts and the judgments required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

Statement of disclosure to our auditors

In so far as the Governors and the Accounting Officer are aware at the time of approving our Governors' annual report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which WFD's auditor is unaware
- the Governors and the Accounting Officer, having made enquiries of fellow directors and WFD's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

Auditor

The Comptroller and Auditor General is the statutory auditor for the accounts of WFD.

Approved and signed on behalf of the board on 9 July 2018

Richard Graham MP
Chair

Anthony Smith
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Accounting Officer of WFD, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievements of WFD's policies, aims and objectives, while safeguarding the public funds and assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Managing Public Money. I am therefore responsible for ensuring that WFD is administered prudently and economically and that resources are applied efficiently and effectively to deliver our agreed goals.

In addition, I am accountable to the Principal Accounting Officer of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to enable him to discharge his overall responsibility for ensuring that WFD as an FCO Non-Departmental Public Body has adequate financial systems and procedures in place. WFD's corporate and business plans, objectives and associated risks are discussed regularly with the FCO.

The Governance framework

The relationship between WFD and the FCO is specified in the Management Statement and its associated Financial Memorandum. These framework documents also include specific guidance documents that WFD must comply with. In addition, WFD has drawn on guiding principles published in the UK Corporate Governance Code and HM Treasury's Audit Committee Handbook in establishing its governance framework.

Accountability within WFD is overseen and exercised through the board and its subcommittees, each chaired by a governor. The board met four times during the year with an average attendance by its appointed Governors of 91%. At each meeting the board received and agreed reports that it was satisfied adequately represented the status of operations, risk, and financial management. Throughout the year, they monitored delivery of the Business Plan 2017-18 and received regular progress reports of key performance indicators. The Board considers the quality of the information provided to support its decision making to be of appropriate quality.

The board continued to function effectively during the year. At a strategic level, the board reviewed and approved a new [Strategic Framework](#) which was launched on the occasion of WFD's 25th anniversary conference. The board continued to engage actively with key stakeholders and to contribute directly to WFD programming. The board maintained close oversight of politically sensitive programmes, including through special board meetings and range of informal meetings and discussions with senior management. The board agreed to co-opt an additional member to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee with finance qualifications. There were several board member changes during the year and the board agreed that it will review its performance at an away day in early 2018-19.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee supports the board to discharge its fiduciary, risk control, and governance responsibilities by monitoring and providing advice to me in the exercise of my duties, and by promoting a climate of financial discipline and control within the organisation. The Committee performs the key role of reviewing and monitoring the systems of internal control and receives regular reports on the work and findings of the internal and the external auditors. Minutes are prepared following each meeting and provided to the board, together with an annual report.

The committee includes members with a range of audit and risk management experience. Its terms of reference provide for the Committee to co-opt additional members for a period not exceeding a year to provide specialist skills, knowledge and experience. During the year an external member with recent and relevant financial experience was appointed to provide financial advice.

The Programme Quality Committee

The Programme Quality Committee maintains an overview of all WFD programmes to assess the overall quality of WFD's work and help shape and monitor initiatives to strengthen its impact.

During the year the Committee:

- reviewed implementation of new third party funded grants to ensure adequate management of key financial, capacity and political risks
- discussed how the 2017-2022 [Strategic Framework](#) would be integrated at all levels into WFD's work (see page 13 for more information on our new strategy)
- assessed how WFD's growth and related capacity building challenges will be met
- heard detailed briefings on key thematic topics and areas of future development and assessed if suitable targets and benchmarks were being set to deliver high quality programming
- reviewed WFD's programme rating methodology and the effectiveness of the mitigation measures in place for programmes identified as underperforming
- reviewed plans for increased collaboration between WFD and the political party offices to deliver greater impact.

The Terms and Conditions Committee

The Terms and Conditions Committee assists the board to discharge its responsibilities relative to the terms and conditions of employment of WFD staff. The Committee works with me in my role as the Chief Executive to set policies relating to terms and conditions of service (which are linked to those of the FCO), health and safety, and security, to monitor the application of these policies, and to ensure transparency and fairness in the application of these arrangements. The Committee normally meets once per year and last met in March 2017. The Committee is kept regularly informed on matters relating to staff, including relevant issues identified by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

The committee structures reporting through to the board have been clearly defined and the terms of reference, membership, and reporting arrangements are reviewed annually.

Board and subcommittee attendance (1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 inclusive)

Attendance presented as: Actual attendance/possible attendance

Board Member	Board	Audit and Risk Committee	Programme Quality Committee	Terms and Conditions Committee
Tasmina Ahmed-Sheik MP (until 28 June 2017)	0/0			0/0
Rushanara Ali MP	3/4		3/3	
Rt Hon Sir Henry Bellingham MP (Chair)	4/4			
Ken Caldwell (until 24 April 2017)	0/0		0/0	
Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP	3/4		2/3	
Patrick Grady MP (as observer)	4/4			0/0
Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge MP	4/4	2/3		
Thomas Hughes	4/4	3/3		
Susan English	4/4		3/3	
John Osmond (until 25 April 2017)	0/0	0/0		
Andrew Rosindell MP	4/4			0/0
Simon Walker	3/4	1/3		

Key Risks

During the year, the board reviewed WFD's key risks. The review enabled the board to rationalise its strategic risks to a more practicable number grouped under four categories: Financial, Impact, Reputational, and Governance.

Risks	Management
Financial	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to secure and maintain funding, including the unpredictable nature of external events, the uncertain provenance of funding, or the failure to perform sufficient due diligence. • Loss or mis-use of funds, including risk of fraud or corruption or the inadequacy of controls leading to losses or ineligible spend. 	<p>During the year WFD completed the restructuring of our central finance team, improving management and donor reporting, and the level of finance support to programme teams.</p> <p>We strengthened the monitoring of delivery chain funds management to help protect against risk of mis-use or fraud involving funds outside WFD's direct control.</p> <p>All staff completed a self-disclosure on their awareness of the risks of bribery or corruption in their work.</p>
Impact	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to deliver quality programming, for instance failure to achieve impact targets or required programme outcomes that risk WFD's work becoming less relevant to funders' own priorities. • Failure to ensure its work is properly measured and reported. • Failure to demonstrate value for money. 	<p>WFD's programme planning needs to evidence clear understanding of the policy context for democracy assistance, particularly assistance related to parliaments and political parties.</p> <p>During the year WFD updated our strategy and will now include additional methods that impact on the political system and that work across a wider range of institutions, processes, and themes. To support this, WFD improved how it works including review of the design, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation of its programmes.</p>
Reputational	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to perform to expected standards, either in the quality or methods of WFD's programming or its behaviour as an organisation. • Poor quality programme management, monitoring and evaluation affecting WFD's professional credibility. • Failure to respond appropriately to unexpected events, for instance poor anticipation or reaction to significant changes that affect WFD directly, or affect the wider sector in which it works. 	<p>During the year WFD published our updated strategic framework (2017-2022) that made clear our analysis of the current potential of WFD and what steps we should take over the next five years to increase our impact even further. In doing this, we reaffirmed commitment to, and made transparent, the qualities we should be measured against.</p> <p>WFD maintains close dialogue with stakeholders to ensure relevance to funders' own objectives.</p>

Risks	Management
Governance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure of the WFD board to provide effective leadership and oversight. • Risk of inefficient corporate systems that reduce or diminish capability. • Risks to staff and non-staff of ineffective or inadequate safety and security provisions and arrangements. 	<p>During the year WFD continued to invest in enhancements to our central capacity and capability and our core systems, based on a planned schedule of change. An independent review showed that the changes have largely been implemented successfully, nevertheless overall assurance levels are still lower than desired and further system developments will be required. These include: an upgraded finance system better able to respond to the needs of the organisation; improvements to the programme database; and the development of linked reporting from these to enhance value for money measurement and aid data publishing to IATI standard. These are scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2018-19.</p> <p>Local security plans were completed during the year by all active country programme offices and new security processes around each country visit were implemented.</p>

Risk management

WFD's system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; as such, it can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

Overall responsibility for the management of risk lies with me as Accounting Officer. The WFD board has responsibility to ensure that robust systems of internal control and management are in place:

- to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of WFD's objectives
- to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact if realised
- to manage or mitigate them efficiently, effectively and economically

A framework for risk control is provided by Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Framework and one element is the Corporate Risk Register that is reviewed by the board at each of its meetings.

As part of risk management, the board sets out its risk appetite and how it sees the company's approach to risk appetite. At its May 2017 meeting the board reviewed its risk appetite for each key risk and made an alteration to assist the application of its policy of zero-tolerance of corruption, making clear where WFD would be prepared to engage in legitimate and essential transactions with individuals or organisations but who may be associated with a higher corruption risk.

The board's responsibility is supported through the sub-committees of the board, with appropriate membership or input from members of the Executive team. Risk is considered on the agenda at all meetings of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee for them to review the action plans presented for each risk and the progress made towards reducing risk to the tolerance level set on a risk-by-risk basis.

The Executive Management Committee (EMC) steers the management of the Foundation and its future development. It is chaired by the CEO and senior staff from all functions are members. The committee meets monthly. There is a consistent focus on operational risk management with the corporate risk register, which reports the current strategy for managing each risk, the relative strength of the risk control, and the net risk outcome (low, moderate, high or severe), a standing item on the EMC agenda.

We have established a framework on regular management information and administrative procedures, including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. This includes:

- Comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual business plan and budget approved by the board and reviewed and agreed by the Human Rights, Democracy and Governance Department of the FCO and Governance, Open Societies and Anti-Corruption Team of DFID
- Monthly management accounts reporting in detail on programme and project expenditure and overheads, each compared to budget, on any resource allocations, and with estimated full year outcome regularly updated. This allows us to ensure that we deliver our programme activity within a balanced budget. These are reviewed by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and approved by the board
- Staff training in the identification and management of risk appropriate to their authority and duties
- A requirement for all new programme proposals to include a risk assessment and, following approval, for risk registers to be maintained.

WFD regularly reports to the FCO and to DFID on its progress against WFD's Business Case for 2015-18 and the second annual report of progress was submitted in June 2017 and approved by FCO and DFID. An external programme performance report for the full 2015-18 Business Case period is underway for submission in June 2018. The FCO have meanwhile confirmed ongoing funding for 2018-19 and DFID are expected to confirm their support for a new three-year term shortly.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing and reporting the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and senior managers within WFD who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and by comments made by the external auditors in their annual management letter and other reports.

Internal audit

WFD has an internal audit function provided by an independent firm of auditors (BDO in the current year) which operates to standards defined in the Government Internal Audit Standards. The work of internal audit is informed by an analysis of the risks to which WFD is exposed. An internal audit strategic plan for 2017-20 has been approved and forward annual internal audit plans are based on this. I am responsible for approval of the analysis of risk and internal audit plans. The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee reviews these plans and they are endorsed by WFD's Board of Governors. The rolling programme of internal audit provides me with regular reports on effectiveness of controls in WFD. Reports are also provided by me to the WFD's Board of Governors, to the Human Rights and Democracy Department of the FCO and to the Head of the Internal Audit Department of the FCO.

In each internal audit report, a level of assurance is normally provided for the design of internal control framework and for the operational effectiveness of internal controls. Assurance provided in the reports can range from substantial, through moderate, limited, and finally nil assurance. Each report contains detailed findings categorised as having high, medium, or low significance.

I am pleased to report that for the current year the Internal Auditors were able to provide an overall opinion of reasonable assurance that there is a generally sound system of internal control and that these controls are generally applied consistently.

Of the 11 individual assignment report opinions obtained 10 provided substantial or moderate assurance, and one provided limited assurance. This was due to agreed actions by WFD's security working group not being implemented by the time of the audit, but which have subsequently been fully implemented by management.

Of the detailed findings, there were no findings of high significance, 17 of medium significance and 4 of low significance. Senior management is working through a series of initiatives to ensure the recommendations are implemented as quickly as possible. Following a review in January 2018 by the internal auditors of recommendations made in reports prior to that date, substantial work had been done for 14 of the 23 recommendations that were followed-up, including 13 that have now been fully implemented or have been superseded. One risk was accepted and a further 9 are in progress and generally considered to be of low significance. The review also confirmed that fulfilment of recommendations has improved substantially, with those outstanding at year-end themselves in advanced stage of completion.

I am satisfied that an effective system of internal control has been in place at WFD throughout the year ended 31 March 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with Treasury guidance.

During the year we completed a competitive tender for our internal audit services and have appointed Crowe Clark Whitehill for 2018-19. I look forward to working closely with them to identify areas of potential risk and seek assurance that our internal controls are working effectively.

Anthony Smith
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
9 July 2018

REMUNERATION REPORT

This report provides details of the remuneration, service contracts, and pensions for WFD's senior civil servants (SCS) and Governors.

WFD entered into a Service Agreement with Anthony Smith, Chief Executive, on 18 August 2014 and this remained in effect throughout the year to 31 March 2018.

The remuneration of SCS, which in the current and prior year is the Chief Executive and the Finance Director, is reviewed annually and is determined by reference to the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body, based on the annual performance appraisal conducted by the Chair of the board. Performance objectives are set for the succeeding year and these are reviewed on an iterative basis through the year, to assess performance. A performance-related bonus can be paid dependent on performance in line with civil service guidelines. Performance related payments of £2,175 and £1,600 were agreed by the Chair on behalf of the board and these were paid to Anthony Smith and Paul Naismith respectively based on performance in the year to 31 March 2017.

As a public-funded body, WFD adopts the guidelines followed by its sponsor body, the FCO. The summer 2015 Budget announced the funding of public sector workforces for an average pay award of 1% for 4 years from 2016-17 onwards. During the year, in line with the pay policy there was an increase in base pay by 1%.

Governor and SCS remuneration and pensions

The following table has been subject to audit. During the year the single total figure of remuneration made to senior managers was as follows:

	Salary £000		Bonus payments £000		Pension benefits ¹ (to nearest £000)		Total	
	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17
Anthony Smith	100-105	95-100	0-5	0-5	6	21	105-110	120-125
Paul Naismith	75-80	70-75	0-5	0-5	29	29	105-110	105-110
All Governors ²								

¹The value of pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) plus (the real increase in any lump sum) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increases exclude increases due to inflation or any increase or decreases due to a transfer of pension rights.

²Governors are not remunerated and WFD does not pay allowances and benefits in kind to Governors.

There were no benefits-in-kind paid in the year (2016-17: £nil).

Reporting bodies are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest-paid employee in their organisation at the reporting period end date, and the median remuneration of the organisation's workforce. Reporting bodies are also required to disclose the range between the highest and lowest-paid employee in their organisation.

The following table has been subject to audit.

	2017-18	2016-17
Mid-point of band of highest paid employee's total remuneration (£000) as shown in the table on page 96	102.5	102.5
Median total remuneration (£)	36,944	35,762
Ratio	2.8	2.9

In 2017-18, no (2016-17: 0) employees received remuneration in excess of the highest-paid director. Remuneration ranged from £22,429 to £102,381 (2016-17: £19,156 to £101,800).

Total remuneration includes salary and non-consolidated performance-related pay but excludes severance payments. It does not include employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

Compensation for loss of office

During the year, there was no compensation for loss of office made to staff members that left (2016-17: Nil).

Pension benefits at 31 March 2018

The following table is subject to audit.

	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31 March 2018 and related lump sum	Real change in pension and related lump sum at pension age	CETV at 31 March 2018	CETV at 31 March 2017	Real change in CETV	Employer contribution to partnership pension account
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Anthony Smith	35-40 plus a lump sum of 115-120	0-2.5 plus a lump sum of 0-2.5	914	850	6	-
Paul Naismith	15-20 plus a lump sum of nil	0-2.5 plus a lump sum of nil	315	275	24	-

CETV is the Cash Equivalent Transfer Value and is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a point in time. As the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) is a multi-employer fund, the CETV values will include accumulated accrued benefits from any previous employers that operate the PCSPS.

Real change in CETV reflects the increase/(decrease) in CETV that is funded by WFD. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation or the contributions paid by the employee and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Governors

Governors are appointed by the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for a term of three years. Appointments can be renewed for a maximum of three consecutive terms (nine years). Governors are not remunerated and WFD does not pay allowances and benefits in kind to Governors. Details of the dates of appointments of new Governors and the dates that appointments end are shown in the Governor's Report on page 78.

Staff numbers and composition

The breakdown of each gender as at 31 March 2018 was as follows:

	Female	Male
Governors	3	6
Senior civil service staff	0	2
UK staff	24	15
Rest of world staff	31	27

Organisational structure

UK-based staff are organised into regional operational teams covering Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Asia, and Latin America. These teams are led by Regional Directors responsible for strategy, policy, business development, and high-level engagement with strategic partners and stakeholders. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation, finance, HR and IT support as well as specialist technical advice is provided by WFD's London office.

As at 31 March 2018, WFD employed 37.3 full-time equivalent staff in the UK (2017: 33), of whom 19 (2017: 21) were directly responsible for the design, management and delivery of programmes and for managing local and UK partnerships.

Overseas arrangements are continually assessed and determined by the scale and complexity of the programming. Most follow the model of a Country Representative leading a country team. Where programmes can be managed effectively from local hubs or the UK this alternative model is used.

In countries where WFD is represented, WFD employs local staff that are engaged either on contract of services terms or contract for services terms, as determined by the local circumstances and labour law requirements. As at 31 March 2018, there were 58 full-time equivalent appointments overseas (2017: 58).

For additional information on staff numbers and costs please see:

- the finance review on page 74
- note 4 on the accounts

Performance management and engagement

Each member of staff has their performance appraised annually against agreed objectives and behavioural competencies. An integral part of this review is the identification of learning and development needs and establishing an appropriate training programme to address these needs. Staff are helped to pursue studies and learning opportunities which will support their career development and benefit WFD by improving performance.

Staff meetings held during 2017-18 provided the opportunity for consultation by providing information to employees and encouraging views to be expressed. A whistle-blowing policy is in place and is introduced to new staff as part of the induction process. Existing staff are also reminded of this policy periodically and encouraged to use it if they witness or experience any unethical or inappropriate behaviours.

Expertise

WFD's Technical Advisory Unit provides in-house expertise on parliaments, governance, gender and politics, enhancing programme design, directly delivering aspects of WFD programmes, and to contributing to WFD's research programme.

In 2017-18 WFD's Research programme focused on four strands: international democracy support, the cost of politics, open parliaments, and violence against women in politics. To find out more please see page 63.

Access to UK political parties' expertise and trainers, and the ability to draw on specialist expertise in Parliament and the devolved UK Assemblies, provides WFD with an extensive network of skills and knowledge as well as a unique selling point.

Staff policies

WFD observes all aspects of the Equality Act 2010 and is committed to be an equal opportunities employer. Our aim is there will be no discrimination of any kind against any person on the grounds of age, colour, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, nationality, race, religion, belief or lack of religion or belief, sexual orientation, being or becoming a transsexual person, or any other personal characteristics. We will make reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities and should a member of staff become disabled while working with us, we will do everything possible to ensure they can continue working with us.

WFD also complies with the principles set out in the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code and manage our recruitment and selection processes based on openness, fairness and appointment on merit. This ensures there is no unlawful direct or indirect discrimination and enables the development of good employment practices. WFD's application process for externally advertised vacancies is designed to ensure confidentiality of candidates at the shortlisting stage, so ensuring that applications from disabled candidates are given full and fair consideration.

WFD's management and staff policies are maintained, reviewed, and updated on a regular basis and made available to all staff. They are also subject to internal audit to ensure compliance with legislation and best practice.

WFD has a grievance procedure to be used by staff if they believe they may have been discriminated against. There were no formal grievances raised by staff during the last financial year.

Union activity

As WFD has less than 49 UK employees the mandatory disclosure on Trade Union activity is not required. We have chosen to provide details below on a voluntary basis.

Paid time off during working hours for the PCS accredited representative:

- for trade union activities, such as accompanying individual WFD staff members in respect of discipline or grievance issues, representation, consultation and negotiation, and meeting with PCS head office representatives: 33 hours (approximately 4 working days)
- to undertake training relevant to their trade union duties: none
- paid time off during working hours for the PCS members to take part in trade union activities: between 12-15 hours (1.5-2 working days) per member.

Off payroll engagements

There were no off payroll engagements in the current or prior year.

Anthony Smith
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
9 July 2018

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY LTD

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY LTD

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy for the year ended 31 March 2018 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes in Equity and the related notes, including the significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union. I have also audited the information in the Strategic Report and Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2018 and of its net expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis of opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my certificate. Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard 2016. I am independent of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit and the financial statements in the UK. My staff and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Governors' for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Governors' and Accounting Officer's Responsibilities Statement, the governors are responsible for:

- the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

- such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the governors either intend to liquidate the group or the parent company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Westminster Foundation for Democracy Ltd's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Westminster Foundation for Democracy Ltd's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

In addition, I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the income and expenditure reported in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises information included in the annual report, other than the parts of the Strategic Report and Remuneration Report described in that report as having been audited, the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- the part of the Strategic Report and the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual;
- in light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified any material misstatements in the Strategic Report or the Governors' Report; and
- the information given in the Strategic and Governors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- the financial statements and the part of the Strategic Report and Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Sir Amyas C E Morse

Comptroller and Auditor General

Date

National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London
SW1W 9SP

ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	31 March 2018 Total £	31 March 2017 Total £
INCOME			
European Union	2	116,838	135,810
Other	2	6,808,117	6,710,383
TOTAL INCOME		6,924,955	6,846,193
DIRECT EXPENDITURE			
Projects	3	(7,653,615)	(8,078,497)
		(728,660)	(1,232,304)
OTHER EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs	4	(2,199,162)	(1,710,665)
Depreciation	6	(28,966)	(18,574)
Property costs		(167,465)	(165,950)
Office consumables		(160,187)	(106,970)
IT and systems		(129,491)	(235,875)
Professional fees		(35,128)	(21,876)
Audit fee		(19,800)	(15,000)
TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURE		(2,740,199)	(2,274,910)
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE		(3,468,859)	(3,507,214)
Interest receivable		127	94
NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		(3,468,732)	(3,507,120)
Total other comprehensive expenditure		-	-
COMPREHENSIVE NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		(3,468,732)	(3,507,120)

The result for the year arises from WFD's continuing operations.

Income does not include grant-in-aid received in the year of £3,500,000. In accordance with Note 1.3 Grant in Aid is accounted for through reserves.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	31 March 2018 Total £	31 March 2017 Total £
FIXED ASSETS	6	22,237	44,981
CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade receivables and other current assets	7	642,769	751,475
Cash at bank and in hand		1,284,442	1,147,846
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,927,211	1,899,321
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade payables and other current liabilities	8	(1,754,468)	(1,780,590)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		172,743	118,731
TOTAL NET ASSETS		194,980	163,712
TAXPAYERS' EQUITY			
General fund	12	194,980	163,712
TOTAL TAXPAYERS' EQUITY		194,980	163,712

These accounts are exempt from the requirements of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 by virtue of section 482 (non-profit-making companies subject to public sector audit) of that Act.

The accounts were approved by the board on 9 July 2018.

Richard Graham MP
Chair

Anthony Smith
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	31 March 2018 Total £	31 March 2017 Total £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net expenditure for the year		(3,468,732)	(3,507,120)
Adjustment for depreciation	6	28,966	18,574
Adjustment for loss on disposal of fixed assets	6	516	-
Decrease/(increase) in trade receivables and other current assets	7	108,706	(461,904)
(Decrease)/increase in trade payables and other current liabilities	8	(26,122)	674,341
Adjustment for provision		-	(18,250)
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(3,356,666)	(3,294,359)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of equipment	6	(6,738)	(40,954)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(6,738)	(40,954)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Grant-in-aid from FCO		3,500,000	3,500,000
Net cash inflow from financing activities		3,500,000	3,500,000
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE PERIOD		136,596	164,687
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		1,147,846	983,159
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		1,284,442	1,147,846

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN TAXPAYERS' EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	31 March 2018 Total £
Balances at 31 March 2016	170,832
CHANGES IN EQUITY 2016-17	
Net expenditure	(3,507,120)
Total recognised Income and Expenditure 2016-17	(3,507,120)
Grant-in-aid from FCO	3,500,000
Balances at 31 March 2017	163,712
CHANGES IN EQUITY 2017-18	
Net expenditure	(3,468,732)
Total recognised Income and Expenditure 2017-18	(3,468,732)
Grant-in-aid from FCO	3,500,000
Balances at 31 March 2018	194,980

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with those parts of the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) that do not conflict with the Companies Act 2006. The format of the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure (SoCNE) has been adapted from that prescribed by the Companies Act to better reflect the nature of WFD's activities.

1.2 Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In application of WFD's accounting policies, Governors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. This includes accruals, depreciation, and provisions. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

There is an ongoing review of estimates and underlying assumptions. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Governors, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the statement of financial position date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

1.3 Income

In accordance with the FReM, FCO grant-in-aid received in the year is accounted for through the reserves in the year to which it relates.

Other income is recognised when:

- WFD has entitlement to the funds
- any conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met
- it is probable that the income will be received
- and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants received in advance of expenditure are carried forward at year end as deferred income and released to the net expenditure account in the period in which costs are incurred. Grants awarded but received after costs are incurred are accrued as income in the period in which the costs are incurred.

NOTE 1 CONTINUED

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

1.5 Grants payable

WFD has no liability for claims for grants that are not received by the end of the financial year.

1.6 Pension costs

Pension contributions paid by WFD in respect of employees to a defined contribution scheme are charged to the SoCNE when they become payable. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions paid are shown in trade and other payables in the SoFP.

Pension contributions paid by WFD in respect of employees to a defined benefit, multi-employer scheme are charged to the SoCNE when they become payable. This is line with IAS 19 requirements for multi-employer schemes where the assets are co-mingled for investment purposes and the benefits are paid out of the scheme's total assets.

Please see note 4 for further details.

1.7 Foreign exchange transactions

Foreign currency transactions are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency balances are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are taken to the SoCNE.

1.8 Taxation

WFD is not liable to Corporation Tax on grants received but is liable to tax on investment income.

1.9 Funds

Core funds represent the unspent balances of income received, for use by WFD in the future at its discretion. Designated funds relate to grants received for specific purposes which may be spent only on those purposes.

NOTE 1 CONTINUED

1.10 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £2,000 are capitalised and included at cost, including any incidental expenses of acquisition, on the Statement of Financial Position (SoFP). All such tangible assets are owned in full.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Furniture and fittings	5 years

1.11. Financial instruments

WFD has financial assets and financial liabilities of the kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at the present value of future cash flows (amortised cost).

Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise cash at bank and in hand and trade and other receivables, excluding prepayments and accrued income.

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise trade and other payables, excluding accrued expenditure and deferred income.

No discounting has been applied to these financial instruments on the basis that the periods over which amounts will be settled are such that any discounting would be immaterial.

At the statement of financial position date WFD held financial assets at amortised cost of £1,631k and financial liabilities at amortised cost of £865k.

1.12. Operating leases

Rentals are classified as operating leases where the title remains with the lessor and the assets are used for less than expected economic life. Operating lease payments and any related lease incentives are charged to the SoCNE on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

1.13 Future accounting standards

IFRS 9, Financial Instruments replaces IAS 39. Based on WFD's current, basic financial instruments, the transition to the new accounting standard is not expected to have any impact on WFD's measurement of financial instruments. Financial instruments will continue to initially be recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at the present value of future cash flows (amortised cost).

NOTE 1 CONTINUED

IFRS 15, Revenue from Contracts with Customers replaces existing revenue recognition guidance, establishing the principles that an entity applies when reporting information about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows from a contract with a customer. Based on WFD's current contracts with customers (grants) the transition to the new accounting standard is not expected to have any impact on WFD's revenue recognition.

IFRS 9 and IFRS 15 are effective for years beginning on or after 1 January 2018 and, therefore, will apply to WFD for the year ending 31 March 2019.

IFRS 16, Leases aims to report information that faithfully represents lease transactions and provides a basis for users of financial statements to assess the amount, timing and uncertainty of cash flows arising from leases. IFRS 16 is effective for years beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and, therefore, will apply to WFD for the year ending 31 March 2020.

IFRS 16 will introduce a single lessee accounting model and require a lessee to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months unless the underlying asset is of low value. A lessee will be required to recognise a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the underlying leased asset and a lease liability representing its obligation to make lease payments. A lessee will recognise depreciation of the right-of-use asset and interest on the lease liability.

The main impact on WFD is anticipated to relate to rental of WFD's London office which will likely require the recognition of a right-of-use asset and corresponding lease liability, with depreciation and interest charges. As the terms of the lease that will be in place at 31 March 2019 (comparative year) and 2020 are not currently known, an estimate of the values of the asset and liability and related charges cannot be made.

2. INCOME

	2018 £	2017 £
DFID	4,633,718	4,049,366
European Union	116,838	135,810
Other FCO	1,578,138	1,839,653
Joint DFID and FCO (Arab Partnership Fund)	-	454,362
Other UK Government	246,369	70,011
Third Party	349,892	296,991
Total	6,924,955	6,846,193

During the year WFD received £3.25 million from DFID in relation to our Accountable Grant funding. This was part of a £9 million, 3-year grant ending in March 2018. Due to income deferred at 31 March 2017, total income recognised in the year was £3.42 million.

3. DIRECT EXPENDITURE ON WFD PROJECTS

	2018 £	2017 £
Parliamentary and integrated projects	5,332,040	5,387,761
Political parties' sponsored projects		
Conservative Party	897,470	1,075,984
Labour Party	958,117	1,076,074
Scottish National Party	173,674	199,846
Multi parties	278,165	306,986
Corporate funds	-	4,120
Travel and subsistence	14,149	27,726
Total	7,653,615	8,078,497

In the opinion of the Board, owing to the scale of activity there is a single segment of business activity which is strengthening pluralist democratic institutions, particularly political parties.

Included in Parliamentary and integrated project costs is EU expenditure in respect of grants received totalling £117k (2017: £136k).

4. STAFF COSTS

	2018 £	2017 £
Wages and salaries	1,580,274	1,166,196
Temporary staff	75,153	162,400
Social security costs	169,077	120,041
Pension costs	263,027	202,014
Recruitment and other staff costs	70,752	77,707
Change in untaken holiday entitlement	40,879	(17,693)
Total	2,199,162	1,710,665

Expenditure on WFD projects costs include overseas locally engaged staff £1,218k (2017: £944k) and is included in Note 3.

The Governors did not receive any remuneration for their services. Travel costs of £nil (2017: £356) were reimbursed in the year.

NOTE 4 CONTINUED

Staff numbers

The average number of employees (excluding Governors and vacancies) during the year was:

	2018 £	2017 £
Permanent - UK	38.0	29.2
Temporary - UK	1.4	3.0
Rest of world	58.8	44.9

Pension commitments

As a publicly-funded body listed in Schedule 1 to the Superannuation Act 1972, WFD is included in Civil Service pension arrangements. The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) is an unfunded, multi-employer defined benefit scheme. As a multi-employer scheme, it is not possible for WFD to obtain sufficient information to enable us to account for the PCSPS as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore, it is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Details of the scheme can be found in the 'resource accounts' available on the Civil Service website:

<https://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/about-us/>

For the current year, employers' contributions of £181k were payable to the PCSPS (2017: £159k) at one of three rates in the range 20.9% to 24.5% of pensionable pay, based on salary bands. The contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits accruing during 2017-18 to be paid when the member retires and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners. The Scheme Actuary usually reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation.

Employees can alternatively opt to open a partnership pension account - a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. For 2017-18, employers' contributions of £68k were payable to two of the panel appointed stakeholder pension providers (2017: £30k). Employer contributions are age-related and range from 8.0% to 14.75% of pensionable pay. In addition, WFD matches employee contributions up to 3% of pensionable pay.

During the year contributions of £14k were also made to other personal money purchase pension schemes (2017: £13k).

5. OTHER OPERATING CHARGES

This includes:	2018 £	2017 £
Loss/(Gain) on foreign exchange	28,348	(6,586)
Auditor's remuneration for audit work	19,800	15,000
Operating lease rentals - property leases	94,789	96,175
Depreciation	28,966	18,574

NAO received payments totalling £1,800 (2017: £2,843) for work as a partner organisation supporting WFD programmes in Morocco and Nigeria.

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £	Furniture and fittings £	Total £
COST			
At 1 April 2016	54,278	36,218	90,496
Additions	30,159	10,795	40,954
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2017	84,437	47,013	131,450
At 1 April 2017	84,437	47,013	131,450
Additions	6,738	-	6,738
Disposals	(27,491)	-	(27,491)
At 31 March 2018	63,684	47,013	110,697
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2016	43,260	24,635	67,895
Charge for the year	8,806	9,768	18,574
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2017	52,066	34,403	86,469
At 1 April 2017	52,066	34,403	86,469
Charge for the year	16,356	12,610	28,966
Disposals	(26,975)	-	(26,975)
At 31 March 2018	41,447	47,013	88,460
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2018	22,237	-	22,237
At 31 March 2017	32,371	12,610	44,981

7. TRADE RECEIVABLES AND OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

	2018 £	2017 £
Trade receivables	302,575	289,990
Deposits and advances	43,695	50,427
Prepayments and accrued income	296,499	411,058
Total	642,769	751,475
Intra-Government funds included in the above		
Other central government bodies	283,793	500,784
Bodies external to government	358,976	250,691
Total	642,769	751,475

All amounts included in the above table fall due within one year.
Accrued income at 31 March 2018 includes £13k relating to EU grants.

8. TRADE PAYABLES AND OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

	2018 £	2017 £
Trade payables	809,140	854,578
Pension contributions payable	8,406	-
Taxation and social security	47,451	-
Accruals and deferred income	889,471	926,012
Total	1,754,468	1,780,590
Intra-Government funds included in the above		
Other central government bodies	365,343	283,349
Bodies external to government	1,389,125	1,497,241
Total	1,754,468	1,780,590

All amounts included in the above table fall due within one year.
Deferred income at 31 March 2018 includes £11k relating to EU grants.

9. FINANCIAL EXPOSURE

As the cash requirements of WFD are substantially met through grant-in-aid provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-departmental public body. WFD, therefore, has low exposure to credit, liquidity, or market risk.

10. OPERATING LEASES

At 31 March 2018 WFD had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows.

	2018 £	2017 £
Land and buildings		
Not later than one year	47,563	47,397

11. LEGAL STATUS

WFD is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital. The liability of the two members, being the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Treasury Solicitor, is limited to £1 each.

12. GENERAL FUND

	Core £	Designated £	Total £
COST			
At 31 March 2017			
Fixed assets	44,981	-	44,981
Trade and other receivables	751,475	-	751,475
Cash and cash equivalents	1,137,287	10,559	1,147,846
Trade and other payables	(1,780,590)	-	(1,780,590)
Total at 31 March 2017	153,153	10,559	163,712
At 31 March 2018			
Fixed assets	22,237	-	22,237
Trade and other receivables	642,769	-	642,769
Cash and cash equivalents	1,273,883	10,559	1,284,442
Trade and other payables	(1,754,468)	-	(1,754,468)
Total at 31 March 2018	184,421	10,559	194,980

The balance of Designated Funds at 31 March 2018 represents corporate donations designated for specific projects by the board.

13. NON-TRADING TRANSACTIONS

During the year WFD did not receive any donated third-party funding unconnected to its programmes (2017: £222,944). In previous arrangements, and following satisfactory due diligence, WFD has acted as an agent and disbursed the funds within the same year.

14. GOING CONCERN

At the time of signing these financial statements the FCO has confirmed its ongoing commitment to providing core annual funding to WFD for 2018-19 at the level of £3.5 million and DFID have stated their intention to provide a further three year Accountable Grant at a level that is being negotiated. The board has reviewed WFD's position based on known information and is satisfied that the grant-in-aid will continue to be adequate for its regular activity and that no adjustments to the financial statements are necessary.

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Core funding of £3,500,000 was received from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as grant-in-aid. In addition, programme specific funding of £1,578,138 was receivable from FCO and FCO embassies, which includes £505,677 from their Magna Carta funding and £580,902 from their Arab Partnership Fund.

Funding of £3,250,000 was received from the Department for International Development (DFID) in the form of an accountable grant. In addition, accountable grant funding received but not spent in prior years totalling £165,394 has been recognised. Programme specific funding of £1,218,324 from other grants was also receivable from DFID in the current year.

All related party transactions were made on terms equivalent to those that prevail in arm's length transactions.

16. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

There have been no events after the reporting period which need to be noted in these accounts.

The accounts have been authorised for issue on the same date as the Comptroller and Auditor General's Audit Certificate.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy

An Executive Non-Departmental Public Body of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Treasury Solicitor are the two named subscribers to the Company's Memorandum of Association. The Secretary of State has formal powers of appointment to WFD's Board of Governors but the board operates independently and at arm's length from government.

WFD receives grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided out of monies voted by Parliament to enable it to achieve agreed objectives.

Incorporated and domiciled in the United Kingdom

WFD is a company limited by guarantee and therefore does not have a share capital

Company registration: 2693163

Registered office: 8th Floor Artillery House, 11-19 Artillery Row, London, SW1P 1RT

Company secretary: Paul Naismith

Principal bank: HSBC Bank, West End Business Banking Centre, 2nd Floor, 16 Kings Street,
Covent Garden, London WC2E 8JF

Auditors: National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London, SW1W 9SP

For more information

Website: www.wfd.org

Facebook @WestminsterFoundation

Twitter @WFD_Democracy

Have a question or feedback?

Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 1311

Email: comms@wfd.org

Westminster Foundation for Democracy
Artillery House
11-19 Artillery Row
London SW1P 1RT
United Kingdom



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