



WFD

Executive
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Office

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD

2018-2019 Annual Review

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Photo: Jessica Taylor / UK Parliament
Women MPs of the World conference,
November 2018



FOREWORD

The Rt Hon John Bercow MP
Speaker of the House of Commons and WFD Patron

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy was born more than 27 years ago – and its work is as essential now as it was in 1992.

From the germ of an idea that the UK’s democratic institutions and political parties have a role to play in supporting the development of democracy around the world, WFD’s reputation as a force for good is unrivalled.


Operating in often complex political environments such as Myanmar and Venezuela, the Foundation has expanded its areas of support from parliaments and political parties to include elections and engagement with civil society.

The Foundation continues to grow and is now nearly a \$20 million organisation with over 30 offices around the world while its activities last year engaged nearly 26,000 people.

By encouraging young people and women to take part in Nigeria’s general election in February, evaluating voting machines in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and working with groups representing disabled voters in Kenya and Mozambique, WFD helps to create more inclusive political environments and imbue greater engagement in government decision-making.

The Foundation’s work to improve the overall trust relationship between citizens and parliament is evident across the globe from The Gambia to Malaysia, and Nepal to Ukraine.

I am extremely honoured to be your Patron and I look forward to watching your efforts and enthusiasm support democratic ideas and institutions in countries around the world which have previously been denied them.


The Rt Hon John Bercow MP



INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

Richard Graham MP
Chair of the WFD Board

WFD's work reflects values that are at the heart of Britain's democracy: the rule of law, individual liberty, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Together with our partners around the world, we share and deepen those values, working to protect democratic freedom when it is under threat, whether in the Balkans or Myanmar, Caracas or Colombo.

This year, I was delighted to be able to see some of WFD's work first-hand. In Albania, where we opened a new permanent office, I attended the launch of a new programme to address the high costs of participating in an election. In Malaysia, following a historic transition of power, I launched a historic Commonwealth summit on women's political leadership.

This report shows how WFD and our partners have made a difference to the quality of democracy in over 40 countries. For example, in Lebanon, where Parliament adopted an Oil and Gas Transparency Bill which, as a result of WFD research, we hope will help make institutions more transparent and accountable.

In East Africa WFD continues to support activists from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda as they push for ratification and implementation of the African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance. And I remain convinced of the important role parliamentarians themselves can play when supported.

My fellow Governors have given great support as WFD's reach continues to grow and as Andrew Rosindell MP retires after 9 years on the Board to thank him especially for his long contribution. We have welcomed both new governors and new staff this year, and I would like to thank them all for helping the success of the foundation's programmes that includes our many vital partners.

It has been a privilege to chair the WFD board over the last year, I know we will continue to advocate that WFD does more with our sponsors to deepen democratic change, while being conscious of the challenges to democracy here at home and around the world.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Richard Graham".

Richard Graham MP



Richard Graham MP meets students from the University of Belgrade



CEO Anthony Smith meets Sandra Pepera at the Stop Violence Against Women in Politics conference

STRATEGIC REPORT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Anthony Smith CMG
Chief Executive Officer of WFD



Focus on inclusion

While there has been great progress in the generation since WFD was founded, our mission – supporting the universal establishment of multi-party, effective democracy – remains as critical today as it was back then.

As UK Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, said in February 2019: “the onward march of democracy that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall has come to a halt and started to go into reverse.”

That reversal means that past gains are threatened – 2 billion people live in countries where democratic freedoms are shrinking, not growing. We all have a responsibility to respond to these threats to individual freedom and effective democracy.

We know that if people or groups are excluded from political power, or if the real concerns of citizens are not addressed, then democracy is not living up to its promise.

That is why inclusion is an increasingly central part of our work and took centre stage last year:

- We co-organised the Women MPs of the World conference. This historic event, which took place at the House of Commons in the centenary year of women’s suffrage in the UK, brought together women parliamentarians from 100 countries to discuss how to strengthen visibility, and further empower women parliamentarians to continue to drive change nationally and internationally;



Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy is looking to advance women's political participation in Malaysia



WFD works to support people with disabilities in many countries, including Mozambique and Kenya

- The Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries continues to support agreement on a draft Arab Convention on violence against women and girls – a regional commitment to end gender-based violence;
- By signing the Charter for Change at the Disability Summit co-hosted by the governments of the UK and Kenya in London in July 2018, we committed to ensuring persons with disability around the world are given a political voice. This builds on our work in Kenya, Mozambique and Sierra Leone; and
- New programmes such as the Western Balkans Democracy Initiative, the Department for International Development's Inclusive and Accountable Politics grant and the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D), aim to give a political voice to marginalised groups.

There are many other examples in this report that illustrate the centrality of inclusion and accountability to WFD's work. This reflects the direction set in WFD's strategy and the reality of political debate around the world; exclusion is contrary to our values and too often leads to conflict and disillusion.

WFD in 2018-2019

With over 27 years' experience operating at the forefront of democracy development, WFD has become a trusted partner in many countries with challenging and complex political environments, which have often taken the path to democracy after long periods of upheaval.

As we submit this report to Parliament, we can look back on what we have achieved and learned and reflect on our direction of travel.





Launch of the Inclusive and Accountable Politics programme in Uganda

WFD has grown into a renowned democracy-support organisation. We have over 130 people employed across our London headquarters and 32 local country offices, including new offices in Albania, Malaysia and Nepal, which were opened over the last year.

Our approach as an organisation was endorsed by a recent Government review², which commended our results and validated our business model.

We have also seen a significant growth in support from donors. This includes agreeing a new three-year Accountable Grant with the Department for International Development (DFID).

The impact of the international development work managed by the UK political parties has also continued to increase, as they work to increase commitment to responsible, multi-party politics in countries around the world.

As the UK redefines its international role, WFD continues to play an important part in promoting British democratic values and supporting the UK's foreign and development policy.

² Foreign & Commonwealth Office - Tailored Review: December 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/westminster-foundation-for-democracy-tailored-review-december-2018>

Activities completed

1,274



Average percentage of UK/ International experts engaged:

UK **20%**

80%
International



Participants engaged

25,945



15.5 million
Revenues exceed

Average percentage of male/female participants engaged:

58%
Male



42%
Female

3

Year DFID accountable grant



Official research, plans and documents created:

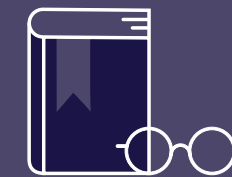
282



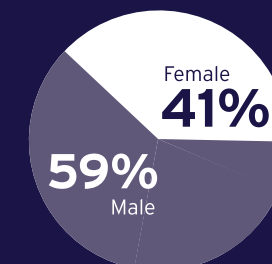
41 observers
12 Elections

622

Experts engaged



2 International Summits



Average percentage of male/female experts engaged:



33
offices

Progress against the 2017-2022 strategy

In 2018-2019, WFD implemented 55 programmes directly in more than 40 countries and four programmes through the UK political parties. This work promoted fair, inclusive, accountable and transparent politics by supporting:

- **Parliaments and Civil Society**
- **Political Parties**
- **Elections**

Across our network we organised over 1,200 activities which engaged nearly 26,000 participants, employing over 600 experts to create tailor-made approaches to address local challenges to democratic governance.

Last year, WFD continued to lead research in the international democracy support sector, including on what donors and practitioners can do better, women's political leadership and the cost of politics.

In line with the strategy, we have made significant changes in how we work:

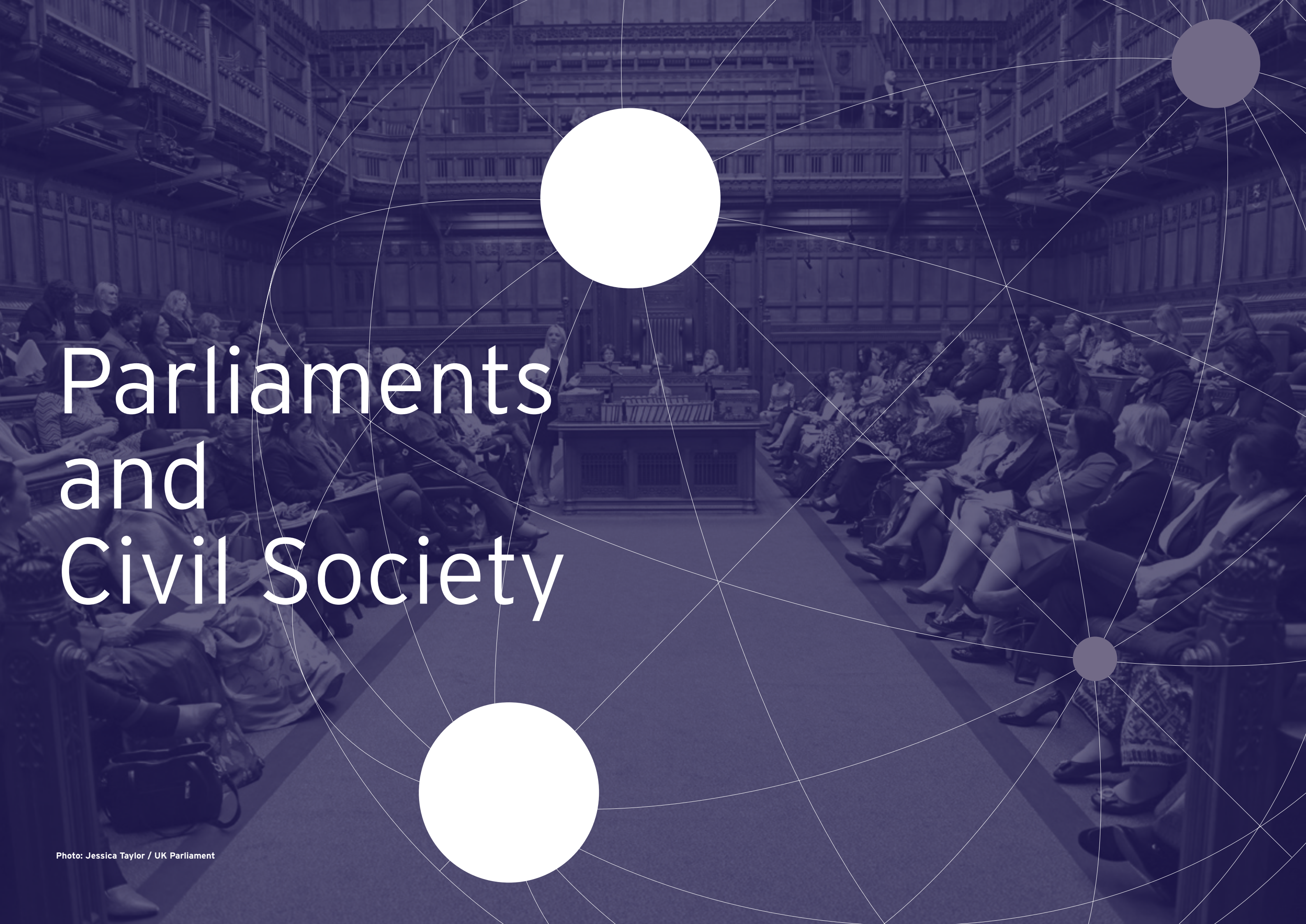
- WFD takes seriously our responsibility to staff and beneficiaries, to safeguard them from sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse. In 2018-19, we adopted a new Safeguarding Policy, introduced enhanced due diligence and vetting, promoted more robust contractual commitments on ethical conduct with our partners and suppliers, delivered staff training, and updated our risk management systems.

- We are mainstreaming inclusion – particularly on gender equality and supporting young people and persons with disability – through all our programmes. This enables us to provide targeted technical assistance to partners, with evidence-based policy approaches that help them to find innovative ways to promote both national and local political activism.
- Our innovative new system for monitoring and evaluating programmes will collect more and better data on our work, helping us learn as an organisation and make more of an impact through what we do.

WFD's essential partnership with the UK Parliament was strengthened as we supported the establishment of the new All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Democracy in the World. Chaired by Lyn Brown MP, the group is exploring democratic development issues worldwide, such as inclusion and political empowerment of women, young people and marginalised groups, credible and fair elections, financial oversight and trust in democratic institutions. Five events were held in 2018-19 including on the constitutional crisis in Sri Lanka and on ending violence against women in politics.

Internationally, we helped found the Open Parliament e-Network. This brings together the National Democratic Institute, ParIAmericas, Directorio Legislativo, OSCE - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and WFD to support governments, legislatures and civil society to develop and implement Open Government Partnership commitments to transparency and accountability.





Parliaments and Civil Society

Freda Liu from BFM, a radio station in Malaysia, speaks at the Women Who Lead conference



Why we work with civil society

Democracy is about engaging people in the decisions that impact on their lives. The ability of citizens to interact with political institutions is critical to the future of democratic systems.

While parliaments and political parties are important for effective democracy, increasingly civil society organisations provide an alternative channel to engage constructively with government to ensure adequate services are provided and evidence-based policies are adopted.

Civil society organisations are independent and often rely on volunteers from their communities. They range from small community-based organisations to larger non-governmental organisations and often campaign and advocate for greater human rights.

Engaging civil society is part of many WFD programmes, and we are proud to support these organisations in building inclusive societies and holding democratic institutions to account.

Why we work with parliaments

Legislatures are the cornerstones of democratic governance. They check and challenge the work of government, make and change laws and debate important issues.

Parliaments serve as a central gateway for all citizens to actively participate in public life. They also play a critical role in fragile and conflict-affected states, bringing together divergent interests and fostering relationships among its members and the groups they represent.

WFD works with parliaments to promote inclusive and effective governance that strengthens policy making, holds government to account and represents people's interests.



Working with civil society in South Africa



Sub-Saharan Africa

Responding to regional trends

Across the region, WFD programmes continued to focus on helping parliaments to fulfil their essential functions, through training staff, assisting legislators to make better policies and laws, and ensuring there is oversight of public spending.

We worked with civil society and marginalised groups - including women, persons with disability, young people and others - to ensure they are better represented in decision-making.

We frequently adapted programmes to respond to regional trends, political change and citizen demands, including as a result of elections in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE IN POLITICS

Countries in sub-Saharan Africa have the youngest population in the world with over 70% of people aged below 30². However, these numbers are not translated into the proportional representation of young people in decision-making roles. Just 2.2% of the world's MPs are under 30³.

That is why WFD is supporting more young people to be active in political institutions that represent their interests in Sierra Leone, Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania.

In Uganda, we supported the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Youth Affairs and trained Members of Parliament to consider new legislation based on an analysis of the distribution of resources and an appreciation of key stakeholders. This strategic approach informed parliamentary actions the forum coordinated to influence both the Development Finance and Youth Employment Bill and the Labour Export Bill, which will have profound implication for the prospects of the 60% of young people who are unemployed in the country. The forum has had a very successful year and supported numerous changes to laws that will help young people in Uganda:

- Following successful lobbying, the "mobile money tax" – which taxes social media use and mobile money transactions with a disproportionate impact on young people – was reduced from 1% to 0.5%;
- Young MPs presented a motion in Parliament to amend the Development Bank Act, to help young entrepreneurs access the finance they need to start a business;
- Young MPs presented the Speaker of Parliament with the results of a public petition calling for a new sexual offences bill to be introduced as soon as possible to address violence in a country where

it is estimated over 80% of young women and 30% of young men have experienced some form of sexual abuse.

In Nigeria, ahead of the February 2019 general election, WFD worked with the National Assembly to help change the negative narrative around young people's contribution to Nigerian society. A two-day exhibition in November 2018 brought together over 200 representatives from youth organisations, the Young Parliamentarian Forum, as well as political party leaders, to highlight the positive contribution young people can make to society to build support for relevant policies.

In Sierra Leone, WFD helped develop a three-year work plan for the youth committee in Parliament. This aims to support a range of activities for young people to help ensure they are represented in the decision-making process. This was the first time a committee in Sierra Leone's parliament used a participatory approach to engage youth experts and government agencies.

In Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania we are supporting young activists and MPs who are pushing for the signing, ratification and domestication of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, through Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D). The Charter promotes international standards of good governance including on the rule of law, free and fair elections and condemning unconstitutional changes of government. In Uganda, grassroots action saw five MPs commit to championing the Charter in Parliament.

² <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/world-radio-day-2013/statistics-on-youth/>

³ <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2018-12/youth-participation-in-national-parliaments-2018>



Youth activists come together to advocate for young people to have a bigger say in politics in Botswana

Launch of Commonwealth Partnership
for Democracy in Mozambique



**WOMEN’S POLITICAL
LEADERSHIP**

WFD continues to partner with the Uganda Women’s Parliamentary Association, a relationship established in 2015. In 2018-19, we helped the association improve the way it coordinates action in Parliament. Changes to how women MPs coordinate and interact with the caucus achieved remarkable outcomes: the Marriage and Divorce Bill, the Succession Amendment Bill and the Sexual Offences Bill were tabled and given a legislative fast-track.

WFD also supported under-represented citizens to take part in Uganda’s “National Dialogue”, a large-scale process launched by the government to engage and consult citizens on key policies and listen to their problems. Over 500 women and young people participated in three community meetings in Kigezi, Lango and Teso and shared the challenges they face in their daily lives with policy-makers.

**SUPPORTING PERSONS LIVING
WITH DISABILITIES**

In Kenya, WFD supported groups representing persons living with disabilities under the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D). This included working with them to develop plans to ensure local and national institutions take action on relevant policies. In Homa Bay, this work led to the development of a Disability Bill, which is currently at its first reading and is expected to be passed in the coming months. In Mozambique, WFD through the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D) sponsored a public consultation to identify the barriers for persons with disabilities to an active participation in society, the economy and politics. Evidence gathered in the consultation will provide evidence for policy-makers. WFD supported Parliament in Sierra Leone through the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D) as it developed an internal disability policy which we expect to be adopted formally in the coming months. We are also helping develop a disability education curriculum to train legislators on including persons with disabilities in politics and policy-making. This will be the basis for our work in the country throughout 2019-2020.



“The training was not only valuable, but it was a motivation to speed up the set up of the Sierra Leone Parliament Research Unit”

Gilbert Bosco N'nbay,
Research Coordinator Parliament
of Sierra Leone

QUALITY LEGISLATION NEEDS QUALITY RESEARCH

Legislators need quality information, data and analysis to advocate successfully on behalf of those they represent. In 2018-19, WFD continued to support parliamentary research units in Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Ghana and Kenya.

In Sierra Leone, the Parliament's Research Unit is now well established and took the step of making its research available to the public through the parliament's website. Increasingly the unit is collaborating with key committees, including on public accounts, human rights and transparency. As a sign of how the unit is seen as essential, Parliament also agreed to fund the Unit in future, ensuring the sustainability of WFD's initiative.

In Ghana, the “Inter-Departmental Research and Information Group”, which was established with WFD support in 2016, trained 130 parliamentary assistants to improve the service they provide to legislators. Training covered operations on the Hansard (official transcript of proceedings), Library, Research, IT, Committees and Public Affairs (communications).

The experiences of developing an effective and trusted parliamentary research unit in Sierra Leone and promoting collaborative working methods in the Parliament of Ghana were shared with the reformed National Assembly of The Gambia. There, starting in 2017 when the country initiated a transition to democracy, WFD is also supporting better research facilities for legislators. As well as sharing examples of what works regionally, we provided training on data collection, management and analysis.

Across East Africa we provided opportunities to learn among peers, between parliamentary researchers. WFD exchanges with the Northern Ireland Assembly, the National Assembly for Wales, the UK House of Commons and other institutions.

Thanks to sponsorship by WFD, in March 2019, the Parliament of Kenya hosted the inaugural African Parliamentary Researchers Conference. The conference, which gathered civil servants from many countries, provided a platform for researchers from the region to meet, establish relationships and information and knowledge about what works in their respective national contexts.

A meeting in Sierra Leone to discuss the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy





Young political leaders participate in the CP4D Uganda youth conference

“CP4D is helping to change the narrative of youths in Uganda... it helps to build the next generation of people.”

Immaculate Akello,
Uganda Youth Chapter member



PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS AND TRUST

Parliament as a public institution should be open and accessible to the people it represents. Citizens should be able to easily find out how those elected to represent their interests are doing so.

In Sierra Leone, WFD supported the development of a new mobile phone app to create opportunities for citizens to participate in political decision-making. The app also aims at making parliament more transparent by providing information on proceedings.

Parliamentary communications play an important role when it comes to how open and transparent an institution is. In The Gambia, WFD is helping establish the National Assembly's communications function in partnership with the UK Government Communications Service (Knowledge and Capability Unit). This includes advising on staffing, strategy and best practice to help the legislature engage with citizens and cement its role. This strand of work was complemented by support to National Assembly's Hansard (official transcript) which also contributes to the transparency and overall accountability of the institution.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO PARLIAMENT

In Mozambique, WFD continued to work on oversight of public spending by providing expert advice and general support to parliamentary committees and offices. This included training staff on how to present complex information to MPs using charts, maps and other ways to visualise data. This became even more important following Cyclone Idai, which struck Mozambique in early 2019, as Parliament monitors how aid money is allocated and spent on the emergency and reconstruction effort.

In Kenya, we worked with the national Senate and the devolved County Assemblies to reform the process used to draft laws. The resulting “new legislative manual” introduced a standard approach for Kenya's new provincial legislatures.



Middle East And North Africa

Responding to regional trends

The key aims of WFD's work across the Middle East and North Africa in 2018-19 were: ending gender-based discrimination by promoting women's leadership and by combating violence against women and promoting openness and accountability by making parliaments better at reviewing and evaluating laws and policies. WFD engaged with civil society organisations across the region to facilitate constructive engagement with legislators and help them become more involved in political decision-making.

However, challenges to security and stability have persisted. Many observers continue to call for good governance, as well as politics and policies that deliver on popular expectations. Our support to national parliaments and civil society organisations has been tailored to address emerging trends with the ultimate goal of ensuring sustainability for our interventions and to preserve opportunities for democratic development.



“The cooperation between the Moroccan Upper House and WFD over the past three years has led to the development of several useful legislative documents, including the Sustainable Development Goals and evaluating public policies.”

Hon. Hakim Benchamach,
Speaker of the Moroccan UpperHouse

SUPPORTING NEW LEGISLATORS

Starting a new job can be daunting for anyone, including Members of Parliament (MPs). Following the 2018 parliamentary elections in Lebanon, where half of the MPs were elected for the first time, WFD provided training to selected MPs to assist them in their duties. 40 out of 64 newly elected MPs attended sessions on understanding their role, parliamentary powers and procedure. The induction covered the role and main functions of parliament, including how laws are passed, parliamentary oversight and practice, the role of committees, and how to access research and library services.

CONNECTING CITIZENS WITH PARLIAMENT

In Lebanon, efforts to promote open, inclusive and accountable politics continued in 2018-19, as WFD helped relevant parliamentary committees and civil society organisations to cooperate with one another. As a result, a new sub-committee was established in parliament to map out how best to amend a data protection law.

In Morocco, WFD helped the House of Representatives to adopt new communication tools to keep citizens informed about the work of legislators. We are also supporting Parliament as it lays the groundwork to become a full member – and the first Arab one – of the Open Government Partnership.

WFD introduced the Northern Ireland Assembly’s model of parliamentary outreach and public engagement to the House of Representatives. This led to the incorporation of best practice from Northern Ireland into new plans for communications and outreach. For instance, the House of Representatives aims to increase the number and quality of tours offered to visitors and will now focus on bringing in citizen groups which are traditionally marginalised in Moroccan politics including young people and whole families. This will help educate the public about the work of parliament. In addition, Parliament’s communications team now hopes to organise outward visits to schools, to explain the history and role of the bicameral legislature.



WFD's MENA Director Dina Melhem takes part in a roundtable discussion in Morocco regarding reviewing laws from across the Arab world to see if they treat genders equally

Civil Society Organisations discuss transparency of the oil and gas industry in Parliament of Lebanon



PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES

In Algeria, the 2016 reform of the constitution increased the powers of the People's National Assembly. It also allowed opposition groups to select issues for debate. It is in this context, and building on strong trade relationships, that WFD facilitated the first ever learning exchange between Secretary-Generals from both chambers of the Algerian Parliament and their UK counterparts in April 2018. Following the visit, parliament expressed its will to work on enhancing public knowledge of parliament's work and demonstrated an interest in moving forward on how to involve the public in the work of the legislature.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO PARLIAMENT

Strategic plans are an effective way for parliaments to plan and set out ways in which they can contribute to a thriving democracy. They help ensure parliament carries out its legislative, oversight and representation functions while promoting its values. In 2018-19, WFD worked with the House of Representatives in Morocco to review its strategic plan based on established international standards. To support implementation, parliament also revised its organisational chart. In the new strategic plan 2018-21, the House of Representatives addresses key recommendations, such as considering parliament a public space, creating a partnership for education with the Ministry of Education to raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of parliament among young people, and improving communication and engagement with citizens – especially young people – through social media.

Last year, WFD helped establish the first Legislative Studies and Research Centre in the Parliament of Jordan. As part of a four-year programme funded by the European Union, WFD is working to support the Jordanian parliament in a number of ways. This includes helping upgrade the parliament's IT infrastructure to make it the most advanced in the region, training research staff and making committees more effective by introducing best practice principles, supporting the parliamentary blocs system to strengthen democracy, supporting outreach and engagement with women and young people and developing human resources structures and capacity. In implementing this programme, WFD has drawn from expertise across the region and internationally, including secondments from the Dutch and Westminster Parliaments which facilitate long-term mentoring, experience sharing, and building bilateral peer-to-peer relationships.

Women MPs from Middle East and North Africa discuss ways to advance women's rights in the region



WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

Morocco's 2011 constitutional reform promoted the principle of equality. Although women and young people make up a significant proportion of elected legislators, they are still largely excluded from positions of influence. This may explain why the development of policies to address the needs of these groups has been slow. WFD worked closely with the parliamentary Equity Committee to improve how it assesses the impact public policies have on women's rights and gender equality. In 2018-19, WFD shared with the committee the principles of the Westminster model of post-legislative scrutiny - the way in which parliament monitors the impact of new laws and how they are implemented - and the tools to help do it effectively.

MONITORING PUBLIC SPENDING

In Tunisia, the parliamentary committee responsible for monitoring how public money is spent continued to coordinate its inquiries with the state audit institution, the Cour des Comptes. The committee prepared its reports in line with best practice provided through a long-standing WFD programme of support stretching back to 2015. WFD helped establish the dedicated financial oversight committee and connect it with the Cour des Comptes, enabling systematic cooperation. In 2018-19, for the first time in its history, the committee published reports about three of its inquiries and submitted them to the audited institutions with recommendations for reform. This included a report on confiscated assets which was made public in what is an impressive step towards openness by the legislature.

"We are working together on behalf of women, society and people to set a development agenda that addresses the issues of women in the Arab world that derive from the specificities of our society and benefit from the experiences of all women in the world."

Innaya Ezzedine, Chair of the Women and Child Committee in the Parliament of Lebanon



Western Balkans

Responding to regional trends

Through the £4 million Western Balkans Democracy Initiative, WFD now works across six countries in the region, to support them on their journey towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

Our support for political parties, parliaments and civil society organisations, helps them tackle challenges to good governance and adopt more inclusive policies that can have a positive impact on citizens' lives.

Funded by the UK Government's Conflict Security and Stability Fund, the initiative was announced by Foreign Office Minister Alan Duncan in July 2018.

WFD is ideally placed to support efforts to improve governance in the region, political institutions, the rule of law, gender equality and post-conflict reconciliation, having been active in the Western Balkans continuously since 1992.

WFD'S DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH

Working in the Western Balkans can be challenging, as political institutions can be resistant to change or averse to transparency. This is why the Western Balkans Democracy Initiative is based on an approach called problem-driven iterative adaptation. The key difference when compared to conventional programme design is the activities and focus of work may change in response to the political context or emerging insights.

In 2018, WFD prepared in-depth analysis of local trends and challenges. We identified 47 key issues across six countries. This required over 160 local verification activities and interviewing more than 400 stakeholders. This comprehensive preparation is now informing programme implementation.

GETTING MORE WOMEN INTO POLITICS

Despite political parties having an obligatory 40% gender quota for candidates in Bosnia and Herzegovina, women's representation remains low across all levels of government. That is why WFD is working to improve opportunities for women to engage in politics. In February 2019, we launched a women's political leadership programme "More than a quota". Several activities have engaged women politicians from 10 political parties, with topics ranging from grassroots policy development through to political campaigning.

ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLITICS

Serbia has one of the highest emigration levels of young people in the Balkan region. The results of a WFD survey were presented at a conference in March 2019 and will be used to address structural factors that contribute to this high level of emigration.

Across the country, WFD works with local youth organisations, political parties, state institutions, business and the media to find solutions to this problem. In March, an "Academy for Political Education" was established in partnership with the University of Belgrade. The Academy aims to train political sciences students so they can help educate first-time voters in high schools around the country on how democracy works. In 2018-2019, it trained the first 50 university students on the "political education" curriculum designed by WFD. In the coming months, academy graduates will start running education activities in high schools.

In Montenegro, WFD is helping educate young people on the role they can play in the politics. In March 2019, we held a two-day workshop to help young activists understand how democratic institutions work and explore ways to connect young civil society activists with counterparts in political parties. Participants set up a group on the social media app Viber to exchange ideas and support one other. In the coming year, WFD will continue supporting interaction between parties and young grassroots activists.



4 out of 5 young adults often think about leaving Serbia and expressed no interests in politics.

Youth emigration could cost Serbia up to **€1.2 billion** per year.

Source: WFD Youth Survey, Serbia



In March, WFD organised a conference in the Bosnian Parliament to highlight the discrepancy between the lack of representation of women in politics and the number of successful women in other fields.



Training on analysis of documents for spending public funds and data visualisation in North Macedonia

This was a really precious experience for me and it will help me moving forward and the activities I undertake as an MP, to improve the rights of persons with disabilities, since we should really have equal opportunities for all citizens."

Maja Morachanin,
MP, Republic of North Macedonia



SUPPORTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

In North Macedonia, where no legislator currently has a disability, WFD arranged for national legislators to shadow persons living with disabilities for a day so they could better understand what it is like to have a disability and discuss practical policy responses. An initial training session also took place with legislators, heads of communication and other leaders from local political parties, in partnership with "Inkluziva" - a local disability advocacy organisation - to explore the best way to engage with persons living with disabilities.

MODERNISING POLITICAL PARTIES

In Kosovo, we continue to work on developing local political parties' capability. Following the "Transforming Political Governance" project in 2016, which WFD ran in partnership with the British Embassy in Pristina, WFD is now working with political parties to focus on policy initiatives.

In March, we informed the development of a communication manual for political party "Alternativa". This aims at improving the way in which the party engages with voters on policy priorities.

In Albania, where WFD opened a local office, we worked with political parties to encourage cross-party initiatives to combat political apathy. We also conducted research to measure the cost of political engagement in Albania. Our research showed that the cost for a candidate to run in an election in Albania is one of the highest in the region. This research will inform future WFD work in the country.



Europe And Central Asia

Responding to regional trends

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, WFD continues to work with countries which are transitioning to democracy, supporting their institutions to ensure that the key pillars of state are balanced and their constitutional roles fulfilled. In Uzbekistan, we supported wider reforms of society and parliament, while in other countries we continued to support local parliaments and organisations to be more transparent and accountable.

Our work across the region has taken place against the background of substantial local changes and emerging trends, which have led to greater opportunities to work with new and existing partners.

MONITORING PUBLIC SPENDING

To effectively monitor how public money is spent, legislators require independent, non-partisan analysis. In 2018-19, WFD continued to partner with the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) and the Financial Economic Analysis Office, which was established in 2016 with support from WFD and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

This office produced 107 pieces of independent financial analysis for legislators and committees. Data supported members of the Ukrainian Parliament as they scrutinise the work of the executive. For example, a report by the analysis office helped Ukrainian legislator Aliona Shkrum in assessing how effective public sector reforms had been as part of a committee investigation. This data made it easier for the Parliament to communicate what Ukrainian public sector reforms for sustainable development had achieved to members of the European Parliament who are responsible for monitoring them.

WFD also helped review how the Ukrainian committee for overseeing the budget adheres to international standards and this assessment will form the basis of our programme in 2019-20.

In Armenia, WFD supports the Parliamentary Budget Office. In 2018-2019, the Office started publishing reports in a more user-friendly way, including by using graphics. With additional support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), WFD held practical workshops on translating advanced budget analysis and research into products which are easier to understand by legislators, staff and the wider public.

The communications unit of Armenia's national parliament started helping the Parliamentary Budget Office in communicating its findings externally, with the aim of educating the public on the state's budget and the role of parliament. WFD continues to work to consolidate the Parliamentary Budget Office and ensure it will have the resources it needs to support legislators in the years to come.



Photo: USAID/GGI
WFD and US Aid hold workshop on post-legislative scrutiny and air pollution in Georgia



Photo: USAID/GGI
In Georgia a workshop explored ways to monitor the implementation of laws in partnership with USAID

REVIEWING POLICY

Parliamentary committees play an essential role in scrutinising the work of government and examining proposals for primary and secondary legislation.

In Georgia, as part of a Swedish International Development Agency and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project, WFD supported the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee to conduct, for the first time in the life of the parliamentary body, inquiries on atmospheric air pollution and municipal waste management.

The committee collected written evidence from experts, civil society organisations and citizens and held live-streamed oral hearings – all of which were based on UK parliamentary practice. As a result, the environment committee produced two inquiry reports with recommendations for government. In parallel to this work, WFD also supported the development of a guide on public inquiries which has since been adopted by other committees to conduct similar inquiries.

RESPONDING TO REFORM

In Uzbekistan, reforms initiated following the death of President Islam Karimov mean the Uzbek Parliament is becoming a more effective public body.

Through a series of workshops, WFD shared best practice with legislators and researchers on drafting good laws, monitoring the work of government, the role of parliamentary committees and research services. The Parliamentary Institute's five-year plan will ensure it continues to provide parliament, with unbiased and reliable information and analysis, as well as promoting better ways of working. WFD also produced a report on the role parliament can play in Uzbekistan which will inform our future work in the country.

Progress in Uzbekistan led many observers to believe similar change was soon to follow in neighbouring Kazakhstan. In our first parliamentary programme in the country, funded by the British Embassy in Astana, WFD shared UK parliamentary practice with Kazakh MPs, Senators and parliamentary staff including through a study visit to the House of Commons and Scottish Parliament. The programme established links between Kazakh and UK parliamentarians and closed in March 2019. This will allow WFD to develop a new programme subject to future developments in the country.



“We are grateful to WFD for launching this timely programme because we see the importance of this radio programme and can hear new aspects of councillors’ roles and responsibilities we had not heard before.”

Almazbek Tashbekov,
Head of Batken City Council

RESPONSIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In Kyrgyzstan, WFD continued to support local authorities (city councils) in Batken, Naryn, Balychy and Karakol. Following workshops on strategy and accountability of local government, all four local authorities adopted strategies formally by December 2018. The template developed by WFD was endorsed by the national “State Agency on local self-government” and is now expected to be used by all city councils in Kyrgyzstan in 2019-20.

WFD also organised public meetings between local councillors and citizens to align strategic plans with the needs of local communities. In Batken, this included partnership with local radio station “Radio Salam”, which launched a weekly show (“Voice of Batken”) to raise awareness of citizens’ rights and the duties of local authorities. A monthly “Open Dialogue” show, also invites a local expert or a member of a local authority to answer questions from people living in the community. The programmes have proved popular with citizens and local councillors.

A young activist, Nurlanbek Usonov used the radio programme to engage with the Mayor’s Office and voice concern about access to a local community centre being developed by a private company. As a result, local activists met with representatives of the local authority and the Mayor’s Office took action to ensure the community centre remains accessible to the community.

With WFD support, women councillors in the four provinces created a network to push for greater gender equality in partnership with the British Embassy in Bishkek. This was one of the outcomes from an exchange with Mole Valley District Council in Surrey, England, which took place in January 2019.

Photo: USAID/GGI
Participant contributes to discussion
on monitoring air pollution in Georgia





Asia

South Asia

In South Asia, WFD continued to work with parliaments as they sought to make democratic institutions more approachable and relevant to the people. Across the region, there was significant political change and programmes were designed to be adaptive to emerging needs.

South-East Asia

In 2018-19, WFD's work across South-East Asia focused on ensuring that parliaments contribute to better governance, delivering for citizens on public services and protecting their fundamental rights.

SOUTH ASIA

The 2018 federal elections in Pakistan further consolidated multi-party federal democracy. The country has now enjoyed the longest period of civilian rule since independence. Consequently, there are greater demands and expectations from federal and provincial legislatures to deliver. WFD collaborated with the National Assembly as it takes stock of its achievements and practices of the 14th assembly (2013-18) in revising and developing its strategic plan including support required to track achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals. WFD continued to work closely with the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services as the federally mandated body to support all legislatures in the country.

A two-day conference on the role parliament can play creating and monitoring whether legislation is effective took place in March 2019, under the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D). This has stimulated interest at local and regional levels of government to replicate sharing of good practice and in-depth investigation into existing political decision-making.

The September 2018 presidential elections in the Maldives increased hopes for democratic change and political freedoms in a strategically important country with an authoritarian past. After the election, WFD in partnership with the British High Commission in Sri Lanka, held a series of in-depth consultations with political parties, parliament, independent institutions and civil society on a variety of reform options to build an inclusive, more representative democracy in the Maldives. A more open, engaging parliament and more accountable independent institutions emerged as key priorities. The Maldives Democratic Party received a resounding victory in parliamentary elections held in April 2019 further creating momentum for positive reforms that can strengthen democratic institutions and governance. WFD is planning further engage

ments with a variety of democratic actors as the new parliament gets to work in June and hopes to secure resources necessary to engage in targeted, impactful programming to support Maldives on its democratic transition.

In 2018-2019, WFD opened its office in Nepal which coincided with the first full year of the newly elected bicameral parliament. The 2015 Nepalese Constitution guarantees inclusivity, both in terms of gender, minorities and disadvantaged groups and WFD has worked with the Deputy Speakers (both women) on how their posts can further profile, encourage and sustain women taking a greater and more active part in political decision-making. WFD has shared with the newly established parliament techniques in post-legislative scrutiny (reviewing laws to make sure they are effective) which the legislation management committee wants to pilot as a tool to both engage with civil society, but also to inculcate parliamentary oversight processes and procedures.



The National Assembly of Pakistan launch their strategic plan with WFD's support



Orientation for committee chairs from the National Assembly of Pakistan

WFD has worked closely with the Parliament of Sri Lanka in establishing guidelines and producing a manual as it embeds oversight procedures emanating from the creation of cross-party Sectorial Oversight Committees. This is aligned to the revision of the Standing Orders in 2018 which were reviewed in anticipation of forthcoming elections. In addition, in partnership with the British High Commission in Sri Lanka, technical skills in forensic accounting were developed with auditors at the Auditor General's Office. Despite impressive progress, challenges remain for Sri Lanka. A constitutional crisis occurred in October 2018 over President Maithripala Sirisena's attempt to dismiss Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and replace him with former President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Although the Supreme Court ultimately ruled the move by the President unconstitutional, this demonstrates the need for a deeper exploration of the constitutional relationship between the legislative and the executive branches.

The May 2018 election results in Malaysia signify a popular desire to change the way politics is conducted. In collaboration with the House of Representatives and the British High Commission, WFD undertook the first MP "Advocacy" programme that brought together parliamentarians and civil society organisations in an ongoing dialogue on how to put into effect the pledges made under Promise 16 of the governing coalition to "Restore the Dignity of Parliament". WFD has established a programme office to support the development of constructive relations with the Speaker and Secretary General of the House of Representatives, legislators, Ministers and civil society organisations to support Malaysia's transition.

Under the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D), a conference on women's political leadership was held in partnership with the Parliament of Malaysia and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in February 2019. The conference saw positive announcements from Women's Minister Hannah Yeoh and Deputy Minister Liew Vui Keong who made commitments on childcare facilities in government offices and a new anti-stalking law to safeguard women.

During this conference, it was also clear that there is disparity in the application of existing laws within Malaysia particularly between Borneo and mainland Malaysia. In 2019-20, the programme will partner with a coalition of women's civil society organisations in the state of Sabah in Borneo to address some of these challenges.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

WFD continued to support Myanmar's Parliament (Hluttaw) for a third consecutive year following the 2015 general election and the transition to the National League for Democracy-led government. The transition has since been marked by significant challenges, raising questions about the nature of political change in Myanmar and the direction in which it is ultimately headed.

In 2018-19, WFD focused on promoting accountability through expanding its committee mentorship programme, which pairs Hluttaw affairs committees with former committee chairs from the UK and the region. Committees on education, health and natural resources and the environment were supported to launch inquiries and conduct oversight of the government in key policy areas. Through their inquiries, committees started gathering evidence, conducting fact-finding visits and public hearings, and developing committee reports and recommendations. The public hearings of the education committees in March 2019 were the first of their kind to be held within the Hluttaw - a significant move towards opening its work to citizens. Indonesia's simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections in April 2019 represented were a significant achievement, as they were the fifth democratic election since the country's transition started two decades ago and the largest single-day election on record. Yet, while Indonesia has achieved impressive democratic consolidation, it continues to face unique challenges relating to citizens' fundamental freedoms due to a proliferation of regulations enacted by some local governments that discriminate against women as well as religious and social minorities.

In 2018-2019, WFD focused on supporting parliaments to protect human rights by working with local legislators to help bring their laws in line with international human rights obligations. Together with both houses of Indonesia's national parliament, we worked trained legislators and staff from over 75 local parliaments to review the impact of local regulations against international human rights standards, analysing how they were implemented to ensure that efforts to tackle discriminatory laws are effectively joined up. In Laos, WFD continued supporting the National Assembly's Law and Justice Committees, whose role it is to ensure that legislation is fit for purpose and serves citizens. WFD helped the Law Committee to improve its core functions and to create awareness around the laws it considers and of parliament more broadly. We supported committee members to visit local communities, meeting with authorities and the public to explain the work of the committee and how it relates to their daily lives. This represented a positive step in creating a link between the parliament and citizens, which remains weak but is essential to further develop if the National Assembly is to become a legislature that responds to public needs. WFD's parallel support to the justice committee supported this direction of travel by working with staff to develop petitions handling procedures, which are essential for the National Assembly to be able to properly process and respond to petitions and complaints from the public.



Guests at the Open Parliament conference in Bali, Indonesia

Latin America

In 2018-19 WFD delivered initiatives in various Latin American countries including Venezuela, Ecuador, Mexico and Colombia. Venezuela continues to host WFD's only full-scale programme in the region which builds upon work that began in April 2016.

Over the course of the year, Venezuela's economic and social crisis worsened, increasing the number of migrants leaving the country and leading to demands for international humanitarian aid to relieve the crisis affecting the population. At the same time, a new political crisis emerged following a Presidential election held by the government which wasn't recognised by the opposition and most of the international community. The National Assembly has since then used a constitutional mechanism to name Juan Guaido, current President of the National Assembly, as interim President until free elections are called. This course of action has been fiercely contested by Nicolas Maduro's administration and the two rival governments are at loggerheads.

In this context, WFD has continued its work with the National Assembly by supporting it to implement a modernisation strategy for the institution. Steps forward this year included the development of new Rules of Procedure, a Code of Ethics and a Manual of Legislative Procedure. WFD also delivered training on communication strategies for legislators and made improvements to the National Assembly's website to make it more accessible.

WFD showed legislators and staff in the National Assembly how to use post-legislative scrutiny, a technique for reviewing laws after they have been implemented to ensure they have achieved their intended aims, allowing MPs and staff to learn how to improve laws in the future. This is a valuable part of the legislative process that is less developed in Latin America than in other regions of the world.

We have also continued to familiarise legislators and staff about the importance of gender equality and mainstreaming this value across the institution. Outside Venezuela, WFD staff delivered introductory seminars on post-legislative scrutiny in the National Assembly of Ecuador, in partnership with ParlAmericas, and in the State Congress of Guanajuato in Mexico. WFD also developed a manual on best practice for post-legislative scrutiny across the region, which features contributions from legislatures which are leading the way on the topic across the region.





COMMONWEALTH

PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY

A UK 2018-20 INITIATIVE

WFD leads the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D) - a £4 million two-year programme - which aims to strengthen democracy and broaden political participation across 18 Commonwealth countries.

The Partnership includes the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). It was announced by the Foreign Secretary in April 2018 as part of a package of measures to reflect the UK's priorities as Chair-In-Office of the Commonwealth.

The Partnership works to build trust in democratic institutions such as national parliaments and local authorities to help improve transparency and foster more stable, democratic societies. By working with parliaments, local authorities and civil society organisations, the partnership helps to support the political engagement of minorities and vulnerable groups.



BUILDING TRUST IN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

To help parliaments become more accountable, the CP4D worked to update the CPA's Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures. The benchmarks are a set of standards for parliaments to assess their own performance and were originally developed in 2006.

In June 2018, the benchmarks were updated to reflect the aims of the Commonwealth Charter and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16 on promoting peace, justice and strong institutions. A manual and workbook were developed to support parliaments conducting a self-assessment of how they were performing against the benchmarks.

The updated benchmarks were endorsed by the CPA membership in 2018 and are now being used in Malaysia, Belize and South Africa. CPA is helping Commonwealth countries conduct self-assessments against the benchmarks, with the stated aim of helping parliaments become effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

The Partnership is also working to strengthen parliamentary committee systems, offices and the legislative process in Malawi, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

PARLIAMENT'S ROLE IN MONITORING PUBLIC MONEY

Partnership members are working with the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees to develop innovative ways of working to monitor governments. For example, a conference of public accounts committees in the Pacific region held in February 2019 gave an opportunity to members to discuss different approaches and inform the work of the Association.

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS

Improving the inclusion of young people, women, persons with disabilities, members of the LGBT+ community and religious minorities in political institutions that represent their interests is a central aim of CP4D. In 2018-19, we worked towards this goal at both the regional and national level. Two regional events were held to promote inclusive politics in Asia and Africa. The conferences were hosted by the national parliaments of Malaysia and Uganda, providing an opportunity for local advocacy organisations, youth leaders, and academics to connect with decision-makers. Through these events, the partnership is bringing regional lessons to the country level and elevating country-specific issues to a regional forum.



Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, speaks at the launch of the revised Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures in the UK Parliament



Youth activists come together at the CP4D Youth Who Lead conference in Uganda

GENDER EQUALITY

In Malaysia, the #WomenWhoLead summit brought together over 100 participants from local and community organisations, business, academia and politics, to pledge to do more to champion women's rights in Malaysia.

Co-hosted with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Malaysia, the two-day conference facilitated discussion amongst attendees about the barriers to women's participation in politics and gender equality across Malaysia and the region.

During the conference, Women's Minister Hannah Yeoh announced that government offices and the parliament building would be supplied with child-care facilities, while Deputy Minister Liew Vui Keong committed to introducing a new anti-stalking law to safeguard women.

During this conference, it was also clear that there is disparity in the application of existing laws within Malaysia particularly between Borneo and mainland Malaysia. Our programme in Malaysia is now working with a coalition of women's civil society organisations in the state of Sabah in Borneo to address some of these challenges.

In Malaysia and India, the Partnership is exploring ways for women at the regional and local level to have a voice in politics, either through equipping them with the skills needed to compete in an election or to advocate and campaign for change.

Political parties play an important role when it comes to advancing women's rights too. That is why in The Gambia CP4D is working to encourage young women to engage with political parties.

YOUTH POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

The #YouthWhoLead conference, hosted by the Parliament of Uganda in March 2019, saw over 200 young activists and parliamentarians from more than 10 countries in Africa call for more young people to participate in politics. High entry costs when standing as a candidate were raised as a barrier to young people entering politics in Uganda and the Speaker, Rebecca Kadega, committed to asking parliament to review the current nomination costs as a priority.

In Ghana, Nigeria, Botswana and Uganda, CP4D is working with a variety of groups that represent the interests of young people in their respective countries. From young elected representatives to students, youth leaders and membership bodies, we are making sure young people have the opportunity to contribute to the law and policy making process as part of a regional project in East Africa.

PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

In Kenya, Mozambique and Sierra Leone, CP4D is working with disabled persons' organisations to identify social and economic challenges persons living with disabilities face, to make parliamentarians aware of the need for legislation that focuses on accessibility and to help create policies in partnership with relevant government ministries.

Focus on Inclusion

PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES: LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

One in seven people worldwide have a disability, 80% live in developing countries. Despite the proportion of people living with disability they are often excluded from decision-making roles and policies are not formulated with their needs in mind.

Disability is a critical issue for international development and democracy assistance organisations. If we are committed to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to “leave no one behind”, then we must ensure the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is not only ratified but also implemented in full.

On 24 July 2018, participating in the first ever Global Disability Summit in London, WFD committed to help create more inclusive political environments that invite and support the participation and leadership of persons with disabilities.

As a proud signatory of the Summit's Charter for Change, WFD will aim to support national Governments to implement these commitments and the convention throughout our programming and internally in 2019-20.



One in seven people worldwide have a disability

that's about **15%** of the total population or **1 billion** people

SUPPORTING PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

In 2018-19, we ensured that more of our programmes support persons with disability. The Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D) aims to address the problems persons living with disabilities face. For example, in Mozambique, WFD is working with the Mozambican Association of Disabled People to provide technical advice on advocacy with regards to forthcoming disability legislation.

In Kenya, where WFD has been supporting the devolution process, we started to work with Members of County Assemblies to promote inclusion in local government.

Through the EU-funded “Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria” programme, WFD used social media and the #OurVoteCountsNG platform, to target messages specific to persons with disability and encourage them to actively participate in the February 2019 election.

Under the Western Balkans Democracy Initiative, we are also working to connect legislators with persons with disability in North Macedonia to better understand the challenges they face daily.

In the coming year we hope to increase our work supporting accessible electoral processes, improved representation within political parties, as well as the design and delivery of policies that invest in the best possible outcomes for persons with disabilities, working closely with political parties, parliaments and civil society.

CP4D supports people with disabilities in Sierra Leone





“Globally, women pay a higher price for their participation in politics. WFD’s own work to address violence against women in politics has shown that while the forms of abuse targeting politically-active women tend to be localised, the experience is universal.”

Anthony Smith CMG,
WFD Chief Executive

WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

In the centenary year for women’s suffrage in the UK, the emphasis on women’s political leadership was a prominent theme throughout WFD’s work globally.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS

Following our March 2018 summit on Ending Violence Against Women in Politics, the international programmes and offices of UK political parties funded by WFD submitted evidence to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. Their report was released on 5 October and we welcome the valuable guidance it offers, and the call to action for member states, their parliaments, political parties and electoral oversight bodies to address violence against women in politics. WFD will take this work forward in 2019-20.

WOMEN MPS OF THE WORLD

On 8 November 2018, women MPs from across the world met in Westminster for an historic one-day event to discuss how to make politics more inclusive. Over 100 MPs from 86 countries united to celebrate the centenary of women’s suffrage in the UK. Delegates discussed the specific challenges facing women MPs today and how these might be overcome.

Opening the event, Secretary of State for International Development and Minister for Equalities, Penny Mor-daunt MP welcomed women legislators and called on all participants to help drive change nationally and internationally.

“Mother of the House of Commons”, Labour MP Harriet Harman praised attendees for the pioneering work they do pushing to realise equality.

WFD is committed to improving women’s empowerment globally. Women only engagements – like the Women MPs of the World event – allow emerging women leaders to further develop their skills in a supportive environment.

In 2019-20, WFD’s work will continue to take into consideration the social, cultural, economic and political norms that inhibit women’s full participation in politics. We will work with partners to develop systems and strategies that challenge and transform these.

ARAB CONVENTION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Efforts continued in 2018-19 to agree an international convention to combat violence against women and girls in the Arab region.

The Arab Convention to Combat Violence Against Women is designed to respond to the cultural challenge’s women face, in peace time as well as during conflict. It was developed with the support of MPs from across the Arab world.

The convention is similar in scope to the Council of Europe’s ‘Istanbul Convention’ and is currently being considered by the Arab League Women’s Committee.

Women MPs from around the world come to the UK House of Commons



“If we want to be remembered by Arab women, we need to protect Arab women’s rights.

We have responsibilities in parliament towards women in our society. We need to create a fairer, more just environment in Arab countries and around the world.”

Wafa Bani Mustafa MP and Chair of Coalition of Women MPs to Combat Violence Against Women in Politics



Focus on post-legislative scrutiny

As parliaments are responsible for adopting legislation, they also have a role in monitoring how laws are implemented and if they have achieved their intended outcomes. This practice is known as post-legislative scrutiny and is a prominent feature of UK parliamentary democracy.

During the past year, WFD has extended its work in this area, showing that it is an organisation with wide-ranging expertise in helping parliaments to scrutinise legislation effectively.

In July 2018, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London and WFD co-organized an academic seminar on post-legislative scrutiny. More than 20 research papers were presented to 170 participants from 40 countries, including academics, parliamentary and legislative experts, and practitioners. The seminar resulted in the Special Issue of the European Journal of Law Reform, the first-ever full academic publication on post-legislative scrutiny; which enabled WFD to establish a network of experts on this theme.

WFD supported the pilot projects on post-legislative scrutiny in Myanmar and Georgia and drafting national manuals on post-legislative scrutiny in different parliaments.

During the past year, specific attention has been given to the gender-dimension of post-legislative scrutiny. In the MENA region, WFD worked with MPs, legal staff and gender specialists from Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Jordan to analyse how widely laws which tackle gender-based violence have been implemented across the region. At a seminar in Rabat which WFD hosted in January 2019, WFD created a checklist for parliaments to use to assess the effectiveness of their laws in this area.

In addition, we worked with four authors to develop a comparative paper on legislative process in the UK, India, Indonesia, France and Georgia, which was then discussed by staff in the parliaments of Indonesia, Georgia and Uzbekistan to assess which system would best suit their needs.

During the past year, WFD established a partnership with the University of Hull, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Italian Senate to delve further into post-legislative scrutiny.



The academic seminar on post-legislative scrutiny in Asia explored parliaments role monitoring the implementation of laws

Four of the six women MPs from Lebanon came to the UK Parliament to talk to the APPG on Democracy in the World about gender equality



The Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament Karu Jayasuriya discusses the challenges to democracy in Sri Lanka at an event hosted by the APPG on Democracy in the World

Engaging The UK Parliament

In June 2018, a group of members of the House of Commons and House of Lords from all political parties came together to establish the first official parliamentary group dedicated to international development and democracy.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Democracy in the World is supported by WFD, which provides a secretariat for the group as well as access to the resources, expertise and global network of the Foundation.

Through the APPG, WFD aims to engage a wider audience of parliamentarians and stakeholders, while supporting legislators with quality research and opportunities to build relationships at international level. In 2018-19, the group hosted regular events in Westminster including briefing sessions, meetings with visiting leaders and roundtables open to the public. In December 2018, for its first public event, the APPG invited Wafaa Bani Mustafa MP, one of just 20 women in Jordan's House of Representatives, to share her experience working to end gender-based violence in the Arab World as Chair of the Coalition of Arab Women MPs.

In January 2019, the APPG hosted the Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, who updated UK parliamentarians on the constitutional crisis of late 2018 and the role Parliament played in finding a peaceful solution.

Also in January, the APPG hosted a meeting between

UK legislators and four women lawmakers (out of a total of six elected) from the Parliament of Lebanon. Inaya Ezzeddine, Dima Jamali, Rola Tabsh Jaroudi and Paula Yaacoubian focused on the issue of quotas to ensure greater representation of women in parliament. In March 2019, the APPG, in partnership with the political party offices and programmes of Labour, Conservatives, Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru, and Liberal Democrats, organised an event on what political parties can do to address violence against women in politics.

The event brought UK legislators together with Senator Maria Lourdes Landivar Tufiño from Bolivia, Afef Daoud, Vice President of the Ettakatol National Council from Tunisia, Mimoza Kusari-Lila MP, Leader of Alternativa from Kosovo, Dr Rula AlFarra MP Chair of the regional Arab Women Parliamentarians' Network for Equality (Ra'edat) from Jordan and Ndondwa Msaka, Project Officer Centre for Civil Society Strengthening in Malawi.

The session provided insights into new and existing legal frameworks, political arrangements and judicial practice used around the world to prevent or address violence against women in politics and during elections.

A group of people are gathered in a room, possibly for a meeting or discussion. The image is overlaid with a network diagram consisting of several circular nodes connected by thin lines. One node is a large white circle at the top center, while the others are smaller and semi-transparent. The background shows people in various poses, some looking at each other, others looking away. The overall color scheme is dark blue with white text and diagram elements.

Political Parties

Why we work with political parties

While the popular view of political parties tends to be based on cynicism and an association with the “dirty” side of democracy, they are essential for its proper functioning. Parties that are inclusive, policy-oriented, and staffed by competent professionals can act as the strongest constraint on the executive.

Political parties build support among broad coalitions of citizens and interest groups. They integrate conflicting views and demands into coherent ideologies and manifestos, providing voters with choice on a range of leaders and policy programmes.

Parties select and train legislative candidates and political leaders and, following elections, organise the business of government and formal opposition. In between elections, political parties can build stronger relationships with voters and improve their internal capacity to develop policies ideas that address citizens’ needs.

WFD’s unique approach to political party assistance has helped many political parties over the last 25 years, from individual parties to party networks, both regionally and internationally.

We have supported political parties to develop and present platforms and policies with coherent ideology, respond to the challenges that societies face and voter priorities. WFD has worked with parties to adopt more inclusive practices; women, young people, and vulnerable groups such as minorities, the LGBT+ community, and persons with disabilities have become more empowered and their needs served as a result of the reforms our party partners have made.

The UK parties continue to be the critical engines of international party networks, as well as leading the way in developing party networks in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe and MENA. Through “sister party” work, the UK parties are a vital partner to build relationships of trust with parties that are in the same political family, as well as with other parties that want to tap into UK party skills even if ideological positions do not coincide.

WFD sponsors the international work of UK political parties represented in the UK House of Commons. In 2018-19, WFD supported four offices and programmes:

- The International Department of the Conservative and Unionist Party
- The Labour Party WFD Programme
- The SNP WFD Programme
- The WFD Multi-Party Office (a shared facility supporting the work of the Liberal Democrats, Democratic Unionist Party of Northern Ireland, Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales and the Green Party)

The Women Who Lead conference in Malaysia helped empower women and break down barriers to gender equality in politics and other walks of life





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



"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."



The International Department of the Conservative Party

The Conservative Party is a centre-right political party in the UK and has been the leading party of government since 2010.

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

In 2018-19, the International Department put learning and the problem-driven iterative adaptation approach at the centre of its portfolio of projects. The focus has been on fostering more south-south cooperation between parties and networks, which led to more effective capacity-building and helped create more sustainable political networks and better-equipped parties.

During the year, the International Department tested how cooperation between different networks and regions can foster a better understanding of shared issues and lead to the creation of shared solutions. The Department saw this in practice when it brought together representatives from the Western Balkans and the Latin American Union of Latin American Parties Women's Network to discuss challenges and opportunities faced by women politicians. The Department has also experimented with new approaches, such as online seminars, to engage a broad set of agents/actors thus providing different functional contributions that ensure reforms are viable and relevant.

LATIN AMERICA

In Latin America, the Conservative Party's work focused on gender equality and inclusion. The Conservatives facilitated the establishment of a political women's network within the Union of Latin American Parties, which is aimed at supporting and boosting women's political participation and leadership, and their access to political decision-making positions.

The Women's Network (Red de Mujeres UPLA) was launched in June 2018 and women representatives from all Union Member Parties lead it. Leaders within the network have developed plans for an online support group for Latin American women in politics, which will be launched during the year 2019.

Representatives from the Women's Network worked with members of the Union's Executive Board to lobby for women to be represented on the board and for their role to become central to the organisation and its agenda. As a result, a Director for Women position was created by the Chairman in June 2018 and the statute was amended in March 2019 to include a gender quota on the executive board.

THE CARIBBEAN

With the support of the International Department, the Caribbean Democrat Union network of parties has become a more sustainable organisation and it has established a Women's Network, which is working on developing strategies for improving women's political engagement. Moreover, the Union's youth network has been championing innovative strategies for engaging with young people and developing their political leadership. Building on the training they received from the Conservative Party, the youth network is developing a campaign to engage young voters. This campaign will be their flagship project in 2019-2020.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Conservative Party continued to support the development of the Southern Africa Network of Democrats, which is now a structured network with a constitution and an executive committee. The Southern Africa Network of Democrats has recently established a Women Forum, whose purpose is to discuss issues from the perspective of women and whose Chair, the Network of Democrats' Executive Member for Women and Minorities, reports directly to the executive committee.

WESTERN BALKANS

The Conservative Party has been working in the Western Balkans in specific countries and on a party-to-party basis. The key results achieved during financial year 2018-19 include:

- In Albania, the adoption by their local sister party of the Conservative Party's Framework for Candidate Selection to improve representation and meritocracy.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, one local sister party altered public-facing messaging to concentrate on policy issues instead of using ethnic rhetoric as result of a workshop facilitated by the Conservative Party. Another local sister party was able to prevent electoral fraud after attending workshops and training with the Conservative Party.



Partner of the International Department attends the UK Conservative Party conference



The Caribbean Democratic Union partners with the International Department of the Conservative Party to advance the participation of marginalised groups



Chair of the International Department, Alec Shelbrooke MP, visits sister party in Ghana

LEBANON

The Conservative Party International Department worked on a party-to-party basis to increase understanding of the role of community engagement in policy development. The workshops helped party leaders develop plans to engage the public and understand the importance of consulting citizens to generate ideas. As a result of the training, the party devised several outreach activities, including surveys and focus groups. In 2018 the party doubled their seats in parliament and key party figures attributed the result to the workshops conducted by the Conservative Party.

The Department also provided party-to-party support on policy, elections and women’s political leadership with parties in Mexico, Mongolia and Morocco.

INDONESIA

The Conservative Party International Department conducted an assessment visit to Indonesia at the beginning of 2019. The objective of the visit was to scope out potential for developing cooperative relationships between the Conservative Party and Indonesian institutions and actors. Following the visit, the Department will develop a programme, which will focus on inclusion and the parties’ role in policy development.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS

In March 2018, the international offices and programmes of UK political parties sponsored by WFD - led by the Conservative Party International Department and the WFD Multi-Party Office - came together to organise an international conference, which addressed the topic of violence against women in politics.

In 2018-19, the Department continued its thematic work on this crucial area by co-sponsoring a cross-party roundtable in the UK Parliament. This was hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Democracy in the World and aimed at keeping up momentum for international action. The theme has also been at the centre of the Department’s south-south work. This included encouraging women to stand for political position in Latin America and in the Western Balkans.



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

"LABOUR IS AN INTERNATIONALIST PARTY OF **SOCIAL JUSTICE** AND **EQUALITY**. THESE VALUES ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR WORK, WHETHER WITH WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE, YOUNG PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD OR THE COURAGEOUS LGBT+ ACTIVISTS SEEKING RESPECT FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND DIGNITY. TOGETHER WE WILL BUILD A WORLD FOR THE MANY AND NOT THE FEW. WE WISH THE FOUNDATION CONTINUED SUCCESS IN SUPPORTING **UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS**."



The Labour Party's WFD Programme

The Labour Party is a centre-left political party in the UK, and an alliance of social democrats, democratic socialists and trade unionists. Through its Westminster Foundation for Democracy programme, the Labour Party delivers support for sister and like-minded parties.

The programme is underpinned by the Labour Party's values of social justice, equality of opportunity, fairness and human rights. Labour's WFD programme focuses on capacity building, political education of parties and movements, and fostering regional and international political dialogue.

In 2018-19, the international portfolio of the party was extensive, with projects on developing the capacity of sister parties, encouraging parties to engage more with civil society and human rights and equalities. Activities emphasised inclusiveness and equalities under the slogan "*A world for the Many, Not the Few*".

WOMEN IN POLITICS

Special emphasis was placed on women political leadership and tackling violence against women in politics:

- The programme supported the historic Women MPs of the World summit held in November 2018 in the UK House of Commons, based on an idea by the Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP.
- The programme also supported a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Democracy in the World dedicated to Violence Against Women in Politics where testimonials were presented from a cross-party delegation.
- Labour's WFD programme helped produce a manual on advocacy to eliminate violence against women through the Arab Women's Network.
- In Africa, the programme brought together women activists to support the "Spotlight Initiative to End Violence Against Women and Girls", a global initiative sponsored by the European Union and the United Nations.
- At the Labour Party Women's Conference in February, Labour's WFD programme provided a platform for young women from Ghana and South Africa to discuss global rights for women.



The Labour Party's WFD programme supports the Women's Academy for Africa



At the Labour Party Women's Conference in February, Labour's WFD programme provided a platform for young women from Ghana and South Africa to discuss global rights for women

FOSTERING COOPERATION BETWEEN SISTER PARTIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY

In Belgrade, Skopje, Sarajevo and Podgorica, the programme helped launch a series of campaigns on maternity rights and youth policies, mobilising local sister party activists and civil society. The campaigns were part of a common social democratic response to challenges in the region and demonstrated that dialogue is not only essential between parties but between parties and civil society too.

The programme saw the development of links with trade union movements, issue-based organisations and think tanks which support reconciliation and co-operation in the region.

Links were also established between LGBTI organisations and sister parties, encouraging people to work across borders on this issue. For example, partners from Serbia led on activities with sister parties in the region, demonstrating practical steps on engagement with LGBTI organisations.

Regional work has been complemented by bilateral activities. Labour's WFD programme saw sister parties shift to inclusive policymaking, with parties developing policies based on grassroots consultation.

The programme promoted initiatives to encourage transparency and freedom of expression in restrictive environments. In Ukraine, the programme trained young activists to monitor elections. Young people have played a central role in programme delivery. For example, the programme encouraged its young alumni, especially from Eastern Europe and the MENA region, to lead training sessions for young activists within their respective regions.



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



"THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY IS VERY PROUD OF OUR EFFORTS TO WORK WITH THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACIES ACROSS THE GLOBE. AS DEMOCRATS WE ARE COMMITTED TO **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES** THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ESTABLISH AND FOSTER STRONG DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. OUR OFFICE IN WESTMINSTER IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS TO EMBED DEMOCRATIC VALUES BASED ON **EQUALITY** AND **INTEGRITY**. THE CONTINUED WORK OF THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY ENABLES US TO WORK COLLECTIVELY AS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO MEET TO NEW GLOBAL CHALLENGES."



SNP 

The Scottish National Party WFD programme

The Scottish National Party is a progressive, left-of-centre party based in Scotland. 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 2018-19 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.

SUPPORTING NETWORKS FOR ARAB WOMEN

The SNP programme has been supporting the Arab Women Parliamentarians' Network for Equality (Ra'edat) since 2016. The network brings together 300 women legislators from 14 countries across the Middle East and North Africa. In 2018-19, the SNP-WFD programme developed a policy paper which outlined recommendations to improve women's political representation across the region.

Between July 2018 and March 2019, initial consultative meetings were held in Jordan, Sudan, Egypt, Mauritania, Iraq and Morocco to develop local versions of the policy paper, which were adapted to reflect the specific context. Members of Ra'edat then lobbied political parties and government to take forward the recommendations. In 2019-20, the SNP-WFD programme will continue to support Ra'edat members to advocate for these recommendations to be put into practice.

The party's programme in Jordan was particularly successful as a result of the efforts of the Network Chairwoman, Dr Rula AlFarra, who is based in Amman. After the first consultative meeting in July 2018, a drafting committee was formed to develop the Jordanian version of the paper. The paper was submitted to the Minister of Political Affairs who agreed to adopt three of the recommendations, which concern the financing of political parties, which will be debated by the Cabinet. He also promised that many of the recommendations will be taken into account in the Election Law and the Political Parties Law, and those two laws will soon be amended. Moreover, Ra'edat in Jordan managed to bring many parties to the table, along with the Women's Caucus and the Parliamentary Alliance for Violence Against Women. The groups are now allies in working to see these recommendations implemented.

Dr Rula AlFarra MP from Jordan and chair of the regional Arab Women Parliamentarians' Network for Equality (Ra'edat) talks to the APPG on Democracy in the World about violence against women in politics





The SNP's WFD programme supports 50:50 participation of women in politics in Malawi

MALAWI

With an election scheduled for May 2019, where 31 out of 32 members of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus in Malawi will stand for re-election. Support in 2018-19 focused on increasing visibility of the Caucus and fundraising methods. Communications aimed to present women leaders as a normal feature of political life. Activities were completed in partnership with the Centre for Civil Society Strengthening, a local organisation advocating for a parliament that is balance 50:50 in terms of gender.

Planning was also underway with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, ActionAid Malawi, the 50:50 Campaign Management Agency and M-hub towards the establishment of a response unit to tackle violence against women during elections. This will include a real-time monitoring and referral system that will log incidences of violence against women in politics and transmit notifications to relevant health and security agencies.

DISINFORMATION IN UKRAINE

After a March 2018 scoping visit, the SNP-WFD programme initiated a new project in Ukraine. Initially, this had broad plans to explore the issue of disinformation across multiple sectors in different regions of Ukraine. However, thanks to the programme promoting a flexible approach, part-way through the year, the project was adapted to focus more directly on how disinformation impacts elections. The programme signed a Collaborative Agreement with Kyiv-based Committee of Voters of Ukraine to conduct cross-sector evidence-gathering meetings in different regions, commission an academic to write a policy paper and develop shareable tools (such as a short film and guide) for voters on recognising and avoiding disinformation in advance of the 31 March presidential election.

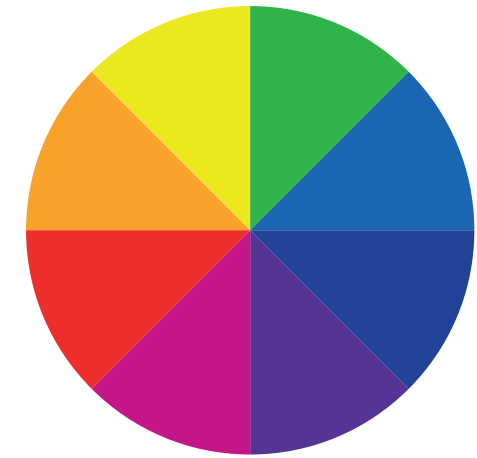


The SNP's WFD programme hosts a conference in Ukraine on countering disinformation and fake news



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

"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."



The WFD Multi-Party Office

The Multi-Party Office (MPO) supports a group of UK political parties, currently including the Liberal Democrats, the Democratic Unionist Party, Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales and the Green Party, to undertake international engagement and development programmes around the world.

By partnering with opposition parties in countries dominated by one or two major political parties, WFD Multi-Party Office projects help build truly multi-party democracies. The Office shares 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.

Through WFD Multi-Party Office projects, 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.



This year's Africa Liberal Network General Assembly helped to empower women to start their own political party

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS: AFRICA LIBERAL NETWORK

The Liberal Democrats have supported the Africa Liberal Network for over 10 years. As a result of budget and staff changes within the Liberal Democrats in 2018-19, a new support project was designed to continue this long-standing partnership.

Following a full political economy analysis to determine the challenges, the new project aims to improve the representation and participation of women within the Network and within the member parties.



For the first time in its history, the network ran an open, competitive call for applications for the new Women's Leadership Programme, which offered 15 places to women planning to stand for election in the next two years. The first training workshop was held in Morocco in March 2019 with delegates from 9 countries.

The annual Africa Liberal Network General Assembly took place in March 2019, with the theme Empowering Women: Starting in your Political Party. This was the first time that women's participation was selected as the theme of the network's general assembly and demonstrated recognition from the leadership that more needs to be done to support and enable women within the network and member parties.

PLAID CYMRU: ESTABLISHING LOCAL PARTY BRANCHES IN KOSOVO

Following a scoping visit in 2017, Plaid Cymru (Wales) and Alternativa (Kosovo) are working together to share best approaches to engage young people and women at the grassroots level, as well as exploring their approaches to policy making.



Members of Plaid Cymru and WFD's Multi-Party Office meet Mimoza Kusari-Lila MP, leader of Alternativa, a political party in Kosovo



Mimoza Kusari-Lila MP, leader of Alternativa, a political party in Kosovo speaks to the APPG on Democracy in the World about violence against women in politics

DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY: DISINFORMATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN GEORGIA



The Democratic Unionist Party explored different areas of collaboration with its sister-party, the Conservative Party of Georgia, including how they can be perceived as leading the Georgian government's response to threats of disinformation. This resulted in the first-ever parliamentary inquiry by the Georgian Foreign Affairs Committee on Disinformation and Propaganda for which the WFD Multi-Party Office provided technical support.

THE GREEN PARTY: GREEN ACADEMY IN NORTH MACEDONIA



A new partnership between the Young Greens and the Youth Organisation of Democratic Renewal of North Macedonia was established in early 2019. The Green Academy was created following a study exchange with a delegation from the sister-party attending the Green Party conference in October 2018. This is the first time a youth wing of a UK political party has led and co-designed a WFD Multi-Party Office project directly with a sister-party, sharing unique experience of managing the under 30 training scheme - a development scheme offering young people in the Green Party of England and Wales one year of expert training and mentoring. The purpose of the Green Academy project is to increase the representation and impact of the Youth Organisation of Democratic Renewal of North Macedonia.



Elections

Credible elections increase the legitimacy of political institutions and can improve levels of trust in elected representatives. WFD's strategy commits to increase existing work recruiting, training, and deploying UK election observers and launch new programmes to strengthen electoral institutions. These include election management bodies, civil society organisations, domestic observation networks, political parties, legislatures and media.

ELECTION OBSERVATION

WFD is the public body responsible for the recruitment and selection of UK election observers for European Union Election Observation Missions, and one of the service providers for OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) missions.

In 2018-19, WFD sent over 40 election observers to participate in 12 election observation missions, including in El Salvador, Malawi and Kosovo through the European Union. WFD also deployed observers to Azerbaijan and Armenia to participate in OSCE ODIHR missions.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

WFD, in partnership with the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) and Democracy Reporting International (DRI), delivered an independent, technical report to the national electoral commission (Commission Électorale Nationale Indépendante) of the Democratic Republic of Congo ahead of the January 2019 vote.

The report set out a list of recommendations to the commission regarding how to use electronic voting machines in a safe, effective and transparent manner in the upcoming election.

WFD also worked with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) to help train political party polling agents, providing local partners with the skills needed to support a credible electoral process.

NIGERIA

In the run up to the February 2019 election in Nigeria, WFD ran an awareness campaign targeting underrepresented voting groups. Called 'Our Votes Count', the campaign was implemented in partnership with the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) and funded by the EU. The campaign informed women, young people and persons with disabilities about their rights before and on polling day.

The campaign used targeted messaging on social media, and the #OurVoteCountsNG hashtag, to target underrepresented groups and encourage them to vote. Social media messaging, flyers and other materials were produced with taglines such as 'VOTE not FIGHT', 'Don't Sell your Vote', 'No Electoral Violence', while flyers explained how to collect the Permanent Voters Card (PVC) which was required to vote. Short animations were also produced to illustrate important messages on social media.

This was combined with more traditional outreach activities in local communities. Through WFD's engagement, community groups were established in three states, Federal Capital Territory, Imo and Osun State, to help show voters why their vote matters.

COLOMBIA

In Colombia WFD supported a local NGO, Mision Observacion Electoral, in their international observation mission for the Presidential election in 2018. We sent staff - including WFD's CEO - to support their work on the ground.

WFD monitored the election in Cucuta, an area greatly affected by both Venezuelan immigration and guerrilla military activities in the surrounding regions, in Neiva, a formerly FARC controlled rural area of the country, and in Medellin, a hotly contested urban area that saw a very closely run campaign.



Highlights from WFD's elections programmes in Nigeria, DRC, Senegal and Colombia in 2018-19

Research

In 2018-19, WFD's in-house research programme focused on four areas: international democratic renewal, the cost of politics, parliamentary effectiveness and women's political leadership.

INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL

Most countries across the world today are nominally democracies. However, we are at a critical time in history where the resilience of democracy is being questioned. This is happening in the oldest and most established democracies as well as in emerging ones.

Supporting effective democratic institutions can be complex and often uncertain, which is why WFD's research programme explored the idea of international democratic renewal in 2018-19.

In June, we supported a conference on populism - the political trend of recent years - in partnership with International IDEA, the Netherlands Institute for Multi-Party Democracy (NIMD), OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and REPRESENT. The event, held in the Belgian Senate, saw leaders from politics, civil society and academia from across the world gather to shape a guide aimed at reinvigorating the relationship between people and democracy.

The debate surrounding populism inspired us to look at how to reconceptualise and reinvigorate democracy support. We invited the Overseas Development Institute's Alina Rocha-Menocal and Pilar Domingo to conduct a critical review of democracy support and reflect on what WFD and other actors could do better in the future. Their review, *Renewing representation: the role of international assistance*, recommended closer integration

between parliamentary and political party work, a more problem-focused rather than solution-based approach to context specific issues, and an increased focus on the body of research in this area. What works in practice remains an underdeveloped area of exploration, which WFD intends to develop.

COST OF POLITICS

WFD's flagship research into the costs involved in seeking public office in Ghana - to be nominated, run a campaign and when in office - was released in late 2017 and saw significant uptake in the last year.

The unique approach this strand of research takes - looking at the whole cycle of costs associated with politics - led to increased interest from other democracy support organisations in 2018-19. For example, the Netherlands Institute for Multi-Party Democracy partnered with WFD to develop questionnaires for rolling out the survey in Mali and Benin, with an eye toward using it more regularly in their programming.

WFD also used the growing interest in political finance and cost of politics to develop partnerships with academics working in similar areas. In the coming year, WFD's cost of politics methodology will be integrated into several candidate surveys across Africa, helping us for the first time to create an initial database of evidence around the influence of money on parliamentary politics in the region.



Photo: International IDEA/Geert Vanden Wijngaert Caption: WFD's Governor, Sue English, speaks at Representation in the Age of Populism conference in the Belgian Senate

Photo: International IDEA/Geert Vanden Wijngaert Caption: WFD's Governor, Sue English, speaks at Representation in the Age of Populism conference in the Belgian Senate



Participant contributes to discussion on post-legislative scrutiny at WFD's July 2018 conference in London

**PARLIAMENTARY
EFFECTIVENESS**

There is growing and generalized acknowledgment that effective parliaments contribute to stable and productive democratic systems. It is rare, however, for parliaments to take on a proactive role in assessing their own institutional performance by tracking formal metrics that capture their accountability, transparency and inclusivity, particularly in the decision-making process.

In 2018, using Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a guiding principle, the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D), led by WFD in partnership with Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), updated the Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures, a set of standards for parliaments to assess their own performance and functions.

This update has galvanised a renewal of interest from legislatures in undertaking a self-assessment against these revised benchmarks, presenting an excellent opportunity to start to assess 'parliamentary effectiveness.'

But the benchmarks can only take us so far in understanding the outcomes of parliamentary activity. To address remaining gaps, in March 2019, WFD and partner members of the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D) convened a roundtable on measuring parliamentary effectiveness. This event brought together academics, practitioners, and professionals to debate their ideas and experiences of measuring parliamentary effectiveness, and the democracy support community's next steps in this endeavour. In the coming year, WFD will continue working with its partners to develop better ways of measuring parliamentary effectiveness.

**WOMEN'S POLITICAL
LEADERSHIP**

In January, we supported the Gender, Political Participation, and Democracy workshop in Accra, Ghana, co-organised by local NGO ABANTU for Development, the University of Ghana and the University of Birmingham's Institute for Global Innovation (which has partnered with WFD since 2016). The workshop explored practical ways to overcome the fundamental challenge a lack of women in leadership positions poses to democratic governance which a lack of women in leadership positions poses. The workshop reinforced the importance of addressing the power structures that impact on the number of women candidates putting themselves forward.

Building on this theme, a new policy paper under the Political Economy of Democracy Promotion project with the University of Birmingham is set for release later in 2019. This paper examines the extent to which parliamentary committees provide women in African parliaments with an avenue for influencing laws and policies in the health sector.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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.

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