The Gibraltar Parliament

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
Gibraltar Branch

55th British Islands and Mediterranean Region Conference

Modern Legislatures for Modern Challenges

Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th June 2026

Conference Handbook and Biographies

Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament



Welcome from the Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament
The Honourable Judge Karen Ramagge Phillips GMH MP

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to fellow parliamentarians to Gibraltar.

As Speaker, I am delighted that the Gibraltar Parliament has the honour of hosting the **55th British Isles and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Annual Conference**. This marks a significant occasion for the Region and for Gibraltar, and I am especially pleased to welcome delegates once again to our Parliament.

The Gibraltar Parliament is a proud and longstanding member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The BIMR Annual Conference remains an invaluable forum for the exchange of experience, the strengthening of parliamentary cooperation, and the promotion of good governance and democratic values across our jurisdictions.

The theme of this year's conference, **"Modern Legislatures for Modern Challenges"**, reflects the realities facing parliaments today. Through plenary sessions and workshops, the Conference will explore evolving democratic models, legislative innovation, economic resilience, digital transformation, and the vital role of youth engagement in sustaining democratic continuity. I am confident that these discussions will be both thoughtful and practical, and that they will benefit from the shared perspectives of small and diverse jurisdictions within the British Isles and Mediterranean Region.

Alongside the formal conference programme, the Gibraltar Parliament has arranged a cultural and social programme. I hope these occasions will provide opportunities for informal exchange and lasting connections.

I wish you all an inspiring and productive conference and a most enjoyable stay in Gibraltar.

The Hon. Judge Karen Ramagge Phillips GMH MP
Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament

Wednesday, 17 June 2026 — Arrival & Governance

⚲ **Eliott's Hotel – Registration on arrival**

Afternoon

17:00 – 18:15

BIMR LGBT+ Steering Group Meeting

Evening

19:30 – 21:30 Welcome Reception

Hosted by **the Hon. Judge Karen Ramagge Phillips GMH MP**,
Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament

DRESS CODE: Smart Casual

Thursday, 18 June 2026 — Day 1

⚲ **Gibraltar Parliament & Garrison Library**

Morning

08:30 - Meet at Hotel lobby

08:45 - Depart for Parliament Building

09:00 – Official Opening by the Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament, The Hon. Judge Karen Ramagge Phillips GMH MP,

09:10 - Welcome by the Chief Minister, The Hon. F R Picardo KC MP

09:30 – 10:45 Plenary I – Redefining relationships - The European Union and the Commonwealth "In conversation" with The Hon. Dr Joseph Garcia CMG MP

- Open to floor for questions

10:45 – 11:15- walk to Garrison Library and Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45 BIMR AGM

12:45 – Family Photo

13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch

14:00 – 15:00

Plenary Session II - Future-Ready Economies in Small Mediterranean Jurisdictions

Keynote Speaker: Minister Bossano (15-20mins)

Speakers:

- Mr Paul Frew MLA – Northern Ireland (10-15 Mins)
- Ms Sarah Hudson – Sark (10-15 mins)

Focus

- Legislative frameworks supporting sustainable financial services
- Digital regulation and responses to emerging technologies
- Economic diversification and resilience in small jurisdictions
- Balancing competitiveness, innovation, and regulatory credibility

Session Rationale
This plenary considers how legislatures can equip small Mediterranean economies to meet modern economic challenges through sound, credible law-making. The emphasis remains on parliamentary responsibility rather than executive policy.

15:00 – End of day

16:30- Meet at Lobby

16:45 – 18:00 Rock Tour

19:00 Meet at Lobby

19:15 Depart for Chief Ministers Dinner

Evening

19:30 – 23:00 Official Dinner

Hosted by **the Chief Minister**
⚲ *Grand Battery House*

DRESS CODE: Smart Casual

Friday, 19 June 2026 — Day 2

Garrison Library

Morning

08:30 – 09:00 - Morning Coffee

09:00 – 10:15

Plenary Session III - Youth Parliaments and Democratic Continuity in 21st-Century Legislatures

Keynote Speaker: The Hon. Judge Karen Ramagge Phillips GMH MP

Speakers:

- Youth Debate group
- Miss Rebecca Figueras - Senior Youth Worker and Gibraltar Youth Symposium

Focus

- Youth Parliaments as instruments of democratic literacy
- Youth engagement as a pipeline for future parliamentary participation
- Integrating youth perspectives without diluting parliamentary authority
- Sustaining democratic continuity amid social and technological change

Session Rationale
As the concluding plenary, this session looks to the future while remaining grounded in parliamentary tradition. It presents Youth Parliaments as structured, credible mechanisms for ensuring institutional continuity.

10:15 – 10:30 - **Coffee Break**

10:30 – 11:30

Workshop 1 - Digital Parliaments

Chair: Phillip Borge McCarthy

Panel:

- Mr Steve Aiken – MLA (Northern Ireland) (10-15 mins)
- Mr Rob Mercer MLC (Tynwald, Isle of Man) (10-15 mins)

- The Hon Joelle Ladislaus MP (Gibraltar) (10-15 mins)

Focus

- Digital tools in legislative procedure and scrutiny
- Safeguards, institutional memory, and procedural integrity
- Digitalisation as support to parliamentary work, not substitution

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11:30 – 12:30 Townhall 1

Allyship and Representation in Parliament: Advancing inclusion for LGBT+ individuals

Location: Garrison Library

Chair: The Hon. C Santos GMD MP – Minister for Equality, Employment, Culture and Tourism

Panel:

- Ms Kate Osborne MP –
- Mr Rico Jacob Chace – Consortium of LGBT+ Voluntary and Community Organisations
- TBC

To explore how Parliament, as an institution and workplace, can foster respect, visibility, fairness and practical inclusion for LGBT+ individuals, while encouraging all colleagues to understand the role of allyship.

1. Welcome and framing — 5 minutes

2. Opening remarks from the panel — 3 – 5 minutes each speaker based on the subject discussed

3. Table discussions — 20–30 minutes

In your tables discuss the role of allyship and identify the most impactful form of allyship you have encountered and also identify a possible commitment of a tangible form of allyship that could be made and taken to Parliaments for trial.

4. Feedback from tables to panel — 5 Minutes each table

5. Panel response — 15–20 minutes

6. Closing and next steps — 5 minutes

12:30-14:00 – Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 – Townhall 2

Accessible Parliaments: Modernising Parliamentary procedure and process beyond bricks and mortar

Chair: Ms Marie Tibdall MP (UK)

Panel:

- Mr Jarvis Matiya -Deputy Secretary General CPA
- The Hon Atrish Sanchez MP (Gibraltar)
- Mrs Jenny Victory, Head of Disability Office Gibraltar

1. Welcome and framing — 5 minutes

2. Opening remarks from the panel — 3 – 5 minutes each speaker based on the subject discussed

3. Table discussions — 20–30 minutes

1. **Accessibility of Parliamentary Procedure**
   Making procedure easier to understand and follow while preserving authority and constitutional purpose.
2. **Plain Language and Public Understanding**
   Explaining Parliament's work clearly without losing accuracy, dignity or tradition.
3. **Access to Services and Support**
   Making it easier for Members, staff and the public to know where to go and how to get help.
4. **Removing Procedural and Administrative Barriers**
   Identifying unnecessary complexity, duplication, delay or unclear approval routes.
5. **Balancing Tradition, Dignity and Modernisation**
   Preserving what matters while changing practices that create avoidable barriers.

4. Feedback from tables to panel — 5 Minutes each table

5. Panel response — 15–20 minutes

6. Closing and next steps — 5 minutes

15:30-16:00- Closing session

18:15- Meet at lobby

18:30-Depart for WW2 Tunnels – **Followed directly by Dinner (take seats at 19:45)**

20:00 – 23:00 Official Dinner

⚲ *WWII Tunnels – Spitfire Hall*
Hosted by **the Hon. Judge Karen Ramagge Phillips GMH MP**,
Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament

DRESS CODE: Lounge Suit

CPA HQ Secretariat



MR JARVIS MATIYA

Deputy Secretary General

CAREER SUMMARY:

Jarvis has served as Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) since August 2020, having joined the organisation in Nov 2017. He previously held senior international roles in justice, human rights, gender equality and governance, including as Special Adviser at UN Women Headquarters, Head of the Justice Programme, and Human Rights Adviser at the Commonwealth Secretariat. Prior to his international work, Jarvis served as a State Attorney and Prosecutor with the Government of Malawi and later headed Legal and Investigations at the Malawi Human Rights Commission. He also served as Acting Secretary-General of the CPA from September 2019 to August 2020.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

jarvis.matiya@cpahq.org

CPA HQ Secretariat



MS RACHAEL COX

Head of Strategy and Communications

CAREER SUMMARY:

Rachael recently joined the CPA as ad interim Head of Strategy and Communications, following six years working on policy and humanitarian diplomacy for the International Committee of the Red Cross. Rachael has a background in Parliament, having worked for over a decade in the UK Parliament, including five years in programme delivery for CPA UK and four years as a policy specialist with the International Development Committee.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

rachaelcox87@gmail.com

FALKLAND ISLANDS



HON CHERYL ROBERTS MLA

Trade and Industry

First Elected: 2025

CAREER SUMMARY:

Cheryl Roberts was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Stanley constituency in December 2025. This is her first term as an MLA. Cheryl holds the Trade, Industry and Mineral Resources portfolio and is Deputy for Public Infrastructure. Born in the Falkland Islands, Cheryl moved to the UK during the 1970s before returning to live in the Islands in 1990. Her professional background is in retail and fishing. She began working in the local fishing industry in 1991 and purchased Beauchene Fishing Co Ltd in November 2003. Cheryl has held numerous voluntary positions throughout her time in the Falklands, including roles with the Media Trust and the Falkland Islands Association. She remains a trustee of the Lighthouse Seafarers Mission and proudly instigated the ongoing restoration of Cape Pembroke Lighthouse, which is expected to be completed during 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

assembly@sec.gov.fk
croberts@sec.gov.fk

GIBRALTAR



HON DR JOSEPH GARCIA CMG MP

Deputy Chief Minister

First Elected: 2011

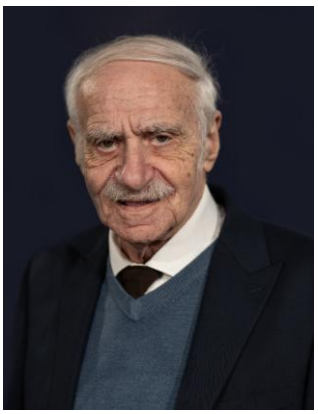
CAREER SUMMARY:

Dr Joseph Garcia is a historian and politician. He is an MP since 1999, Deputy Chief Minister of HM Government of Gibraltar since 2011 and Leader of the Liberal Party of Gibraltar. Dr Garcia has a BA (First Hons) in History from the University of Hull and a PhD on the Modern Political and Constitutional Development of Gibraltar. He is the author of "Gibraltar: The making of a People – The Modern Political and Constitutional Development of Gibraltar 1940-1988". Dr Garcia is Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for European Affairs and for Brexit work, International political lobbying, Gibraltar representative offices abroad, Lands and Government Projects, Civil Aviation and Information. He chairs the Select Committee on Parliamentary Reform of the Gibraltar Parliament. He led on the contingency planning work in the event of a No Negotiated Outcome (NNO) to the negotiations between the UK and the EU on a future relationship treaty for Gibraltar. He was, at the same time, also a member of the Gibraltar team which participated in the treaty negotiations. Dr Garcia was appointed a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2021 for his services to politics and public service in Gibraltar. He is married to Penny and has two children, Joseph 21 and Lauren 19.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

coral.schembri@gibraltar.gov.gi

GIBRALTAR



HON SIR JOE BOSSANO MP



First Elected: 1972

CAREER SUMMARY:

Sir Joe Bossano (born 10 June 1939) is a leading Gibraltarian politician and former Chief Minister (1988–1996). He founded the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party in 1978 and played a central role in shaping Gibraltar's modern economy and political stance. Originally a trade unionist, Bossano strongly advocated for workers' rights and economic self-reliance. As Chief Minister, he focused on strengthening public finances and reducing dependence on external support, while firmly defending Gibraltar's sovereignty. He has continued to serve in government in later years, notably in economic roles, and was knighted for his contributions to public life.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

stuart.ryan@gibraltar.gov.gi

GIBRALTAR



HON LESLIE BRUZON MP



Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies and Sport

First Elected: 2023

CAREER SUMMARY:

The Hon Leslie Bruzon holds the position of Member of the Gibraltar Parliament and serves as the Minister for Industrial Relations, Civil Contingencies, and Sports. His professional journey includes a tenure as an Emergency Medical Technician, in the Gibraltar Ambulance Service, and served as a convenor for Unite the Union. Additionally, he actively volunteers for a local charity focusing on mental health and well-being issues and has played a pivotal role in establishing organisations like AKIN (Association for Kids in Need), Childline Gibraltar, and serves as a trustee for Women In Need Gibraltar, (women's shelter). Leslie's political engagement dates back to 2003 when he joined the Gibraltar Liberal Party executive. He contributed significantly as an election agent in the 2011 and 2015 general elections. Prior to his involvement with the Gibraltar Health Authority, Leslie devoted two decades to the family business in accountancy, branching into various business sectors and spending some years working at the port.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

67th CPC Australia; 68th CPC Barbados; 53rd BIMR Conference St Helena; 54th BIMR Conference Wales; St Helena CPA Election Observer; Cyprus PAN Conference; 74th Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

dylan.ferrar@gibraltar.gov.gi

GIBRALTAR



HON ROY CLINTON MP



First Elected: 2015

CAREER SUMMARY:

Roy Clinton is currently the Shadow Minister for Public Finance in the Gibraltar Parliament and is also a member of the Select Committee for Parliamentary Reform. He was first elected in 2015 and re-elected in 2019 and 2023. Before entering politics, Roy spent 18 years in Private Banking before retiring as CEO of Bank J. Safra Sarasin (Gibraltar) Ltd in September 2015. Prior to this, Roy worked at KPMG Gibraltar in audit after qualifying with Price Waterhouse (UK) as a Chartered Accountant.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

2016 BIMR CPA Jersey; 2017 BIMR CPA Gibraltar; 2017 Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice & Procedure; 2019 UK Overseas Territories Project – Oversight of Public Finances Forum – Miami; 2019 BIMR CPA Guernsey; 2020 BIMR CPA Malta (Virtual); 2021 UK Overseas Territories Project – Oversight of Public Finances Forum (Virtual); 2021 BIMR CPA Belfast; 2022 UK Overseas Territories Project – Oversight of Public Finances Forum – London; 2022 CPA CAPAC – Maldives (Observer- Virtual); 2023 BIMR CPA London; 2023 BIMR PAC Network – London (Observer); 2024 BIMR CPA St Helena; 2024 BIMR PAC Network – Malta (Observer); 2024 UK Overseas Territories Project – Oversight of Public Finances Forum 2024 – London; 2025 BIMR PAC Network – Jersey (Observer-Virtual).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

roy@gibtelecom.net

GIBRALTAR



MRS JOELLE LADISLAUS



First Elected: 2023

CAREER SUMMARY:

Joelle first ran for election to the Gibraltar Parliament in 2019 and secured a seat at the recent 2023 General Election. She is the serving Shadow Minister for Health and Justice. To date, she has undertaken CPA BIMR Election Observation Training, attended the CPA's 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Sydney in 2024 as part of the Gibraltar delegation and represented Gibraltar at the CWP's BIMR conference in Edinburgh in 2025, where she spoke on how to retain women working in politics. Joelle was recently appointed Vice Chair of the CPA's Overseas Territories Women's Network. She is motivated to empower women of all ages to participate in the political debate and contribute their voices to shaping their community. A litigator by profession, Joelle read law at the University of Leeds and undertook the Bar Vocational Course at the University of the West of England, Bristol. During her legal career, Joelle frequently appeared before the Gibraltar Magistrates' and Supreme Courts as well as the Court of Appeal in addition to sitting on the Board of the General Council of the Bar in Gibraltar (now known as the Law Council). She has been involved in high profile cases within Gibraltar in the areas of trusts, bankruptcy, crime, and family law. As a mother of two young children, Joelle often has her hands full, but when time allows, she enjoys hiking, walking the family puppy, books, and creative outlets.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

joellewahnon1987@gmail.com

GIBRALTAR



HON JUDGE KAREN RAMAGGE PHILLIPS GMH MP



First Elected: 2023

CAREER SUMMARY:

Karen Ramagge Phillips is a Gibraltarian lawyer and judge who became Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament on 10 November 2023, the fourth person to hold the role since the 2006 Constitution. After studying law at the University of Bristol, she was called to the Bar of England and Wales and later the Gibraltar Bar in 1988. She worked in private practice before joining the Attorney General's Chambers as Crown Counsel in 1990, where she specialised in criminal law and money laundering cases while also advising government departments. She established her own law firm in 1994 and went on to hold several important public appointments, including Chairwoman of the Industrial Tribunal, member of the Medical Review Tribunal, and Notary Public. In 2007, she became Gibraltar's Stipendiary Magistrate and HM Coroner, overseeing family, juvenile and criminal matters as well as coronial inquests. In 2010, she was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, specialising in criminal cases, particularly sexual offences, while also presiding over family and commercial matters. Her achievements include becoming a Bencher of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in 2017, receiving the Gibraltar Medallion of Honour in 2019, and launching Gibraltar's first Youth Parliament in 2026. Judge Ramagge Phillips is the first Gibraltarian woman to be appointed Stipendiary Magistrate, Coroner, Notary Public, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, Bencher of the Hon. Society of the Middle Temple, and Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Common and Overseas Territories Speaker Conference 2025 and 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

parliament@parliament.gi

GIBRALTAR



HON CRAIG SACARELLO MP



First Elected: 2023

CAREER SUMMARY:

Craig Sacarello is a Member of Parliament for the Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD), where he has been dedicated to serving the people of Gibraltar since October 2023. Before entering politics, Craig built a career in business, serving as Vice Chair of the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses, where he championed the interests of local enterprises. Craig holds degrees in Business Economics and in Law, and is a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, reflecting his broad interest in both commerce and the wider economy. His longstanding commitment to community service is evident in his role as Chairperson of Research Into Childhood Cancer, a charity he has led for over two decades and which remains especially close to his heart. In Parliament, Craig focuses on policies that support economic growth, social welfare, and youth development. A father of four, he has a deep personal commitment to strengthening education and ensuring Gibraltar's young people are equipped with the skills they need for a successful future. He is also passionate about ensuring Gibraltar remains at the forefront of scientific innovation, particularly in areas like green energy and scientific research. Outside politics, Craig is a keen sportsman and former rugby coach, who believes in the power of sport to build character and community spirit. He is honoured to represent Gibraltar and remains dedicated to its prosperity and well-being.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

CPA Westminster March 2025 on 'Effective Parliaments'; CPA BIMR Cardiff June 2025 on 'Addressing the Needs of a Modern Parliament'; CPA BIMR Election Observation course.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

craig@sacarello.gi

GIBRALTAR



HON ATRISH SANCHEZ MP



First Elected: 2023

CAREER SUMMARY:

Atrish Sanchez is a Member of the Gibraltar Parliament and currently holds the shadow portfolios for Care and Opportunity, Elderly Residential Services, Social Security and Equality. She has an academic background in Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology and has worked across a number of sectors, including law enforcement, regulatory compliance and risk management, and is also a qualified compliance professional. Throughout her career, she has developed experience in public policy, governance, regulation and the practical realities of delivering services that effectively meet the needs of those they are intended to serve. Alongside her professional career, Atrish has been actively involved in advocacy and community engagement, particularly in the areas of disability rights, neurodiversity, equality and inclusion. Much of this work has been shaped by her own lived experience as the parent of a child with supported needs and intellectual disabilities, giving her a personal understanding of the challenges many families face when accessing support, services and opportunities. As a parliamentarian, she is committed to ensuring that the voices of vulnerable and underrepresented groups are heard and reflected in decision-making. She is passionate about promoting equality of opportunity, improving accessibility and supporting policies that help individuals and families reach their full potential. Atrish is also a strong advocate for greater representation of women in politics and public life. She believes that diverse perspectives strengthen decision-making and is passionate about encouraging more women and girls to participate in leadership, public service and civic life. Through her work, she seeks to contribute to a more inclusive and representative society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference 6-9 March 2024 (Malta); CPA BIMR LGBT+ Forum 23rd November 2025 (UK)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

atrishsanchez@gmail.com

GIBRALTAR



MR PHILLIP BORGE McCARTHY



CAREER SUMMARY:

Phillip is the Clerk of the Gibraltar Parliament. Having served in the Civil Service for 15 years, he most recently held the position of Private Secretary and Protocol Officer to the Chief Minister. In this capacity, he also played a key role as Assistant Lead of the Parliament Questions and Answers Team within the Office of the Chief Secretary. Phillip's extensive experience further includes contributions to the Accounts, Administration, and Press departments of the Chief Secretary's Office. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Phillip is a graduate of Bath Spa University and The Royal College of Music, London. He is a passionate and accomplished individual, with a deep appreciation for the arts. An avid reader and trained opera singer, he is also an accomplished pianist and choral conductor. Additionally, he is the co-director and founder of the Gibraltar Classical Music Society.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

54th British Islands & Mediterranean Region Conference, 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, 1st Disability Forum, PAM Cyprus, LGBT+ Network, Common and Overseas Territories Speaker Conference 2025 and 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

phillip.borgemccarthy@parliament.gi

GUERNSEY



MR GAVIN ST PIER

Deputy Chief Minister

First Elected: 2012

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Ghana CPC 2023.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

gavin.stpier@deputies.gov.gg

GUERNSEY



MR GARRY COLLINS



Member of several committees including Employment & Social Security, Education Reform, and Housing

First Elected: 2012

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Edinburgh Regional 2012, Cameroon Plenary 2014, Cyprus Regional 2015.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

garry.collins@deputies.gov.gg

GUERNSEY



MR ADRIAN GABRIEL



President (Minister) of the Environment & Infrastructure

First Elected: 2020

CAREER SUMMARY:

Deputy Adrian Gabriel has been the BIM regional representative of CPA Small Branches Steering Group Sub Committee since 2023, he also holds the Vice Chair position of the steering group for the second year. He has represented the region and his home jurisdiction of Guernsey at CPA and CPC Regional and Plenary events and at various CPA workshops and seminars both in the region at CPC 65,67 & 68. Adrian has been a member of the States of Guernsey since October 2020 and is in his second term. He is the President (Minister) of the Committee for the Environment and Infrastructure, which has responsibility for infrastructure; climate change; natural environment; energy; spatial planning; coastal defences; transport; biodiversity and animal health. Outside of his political duties, he is a board director of a charitable sheltered housing association. Before election, Adrian held positions in transport organisations, bringing extensive experience to his current roles. His interests include DIY - current house renovations, gardening, and collecting antique Guernsey breweriana.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Canada CPC 2022, Australia CPC 2024, and Bermuda CPC 2025.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

adrian.gabriel@deputies.gov.gg

GUERNSEY



MS JAYNE OZANNE OBE

Member of the Committee for Employment & Social Security

First Elected: 2025

CAREER SUMMARY:

Jayne is well-respected global voice in the contested space of religion and LGBT+ rights. As such she has significant experience in matters relating to diversity, inclusion and equality. With a background in international marketing and development, she has managed some of the world's best-known brands and worked for an impressive array of world leaders and charities - such as with Oxfam, the Tony Blair Faith Foundation and more recently the Global Interfaith Commission on LGBT+ Lives, which she founded and whose patron is Dr Mary McAleese. Her high-profile campaigning on LGBT+ rights, for which she has recently been awarded an OBE, has meant she is a familiar figure in Westminster and the media, leading her to build formidable coalitions of experts across the political divide. She is a seasoned public speaker, author and commentator, and has written for various national broadsheets. She returned to Guernsey in 2024 and became a local politician in 2025, where she currently speaks out on issues of social justice and matters that impact vulnerable minorities. She is also training to be a barrister and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2024 by the University of Kent for her work championing issues relating to equality.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

London LGBT+ 2025, Belfast CWP 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

jayne.ozanne@deputies.gov.gg

GUERNSEY

MR ELIOT GALLIENNE



CAREER SUMMARY:

Eliot serves as the Deputy States' Greffier (Clerk Assistant) to the States of Deliberation, Guernsey's Parliament. He has worked for the parliament since 2023. Eliot previously specialized in pension regulation at the Guernsey Financial Services Commission and has worked for the Island's Population Management regime. Alongside his procedural work, he holds a degree in History and Politics from Lancaster University and serves as the President of the Guernsey Civil Servants' trade union. Outside of his professional commitments, Eliot is an avid reader and enjoys hiking and baking.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Malta CWP 2024, Edinburgh CWP 2025, London LGBT+ 2025, Belfast CWP 2026, Westminster Seminar 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

eliot.gallienne@gov.gg

ISLE OF MAN



MR ROBERT MERCER MSc MLC

Chair of Environment & Infrastructure
Policy Review Committee



First Elected: 2020

CAREER SUMMARY:

Rob Mercer is a Member of the Legislative Council of the Isle of Man, first elected to Tynwald in March 2020. He was re-elected in March 2025 and currently serves as Political Member for the Department for Enterprise, with responsibility for Business Isle of Man. His career spans 26 years in information technology, encompassing programming, networks, IT infrastructure, consultancy, and managerial roles across local government, finance, and gaming sectors, as well as business ownership. He was educated at Liverpool John Moores University. In Tynwald, Rob Mercer chairs the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee and serves as Vice-Chair of the Public Services Commission. He has represented the Isle of Man at previous CPA events, speaking on emerging technology and climate change at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Climate Forum in London.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

CPA: Disaster Risk Management in Small Jurisdictions Workshop, London 2023. Study visit: Houses of the Oireachtas, Dublin, 2024. Commonwealth Climate Forum, CPAUK, London 2025.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

rob.mercer@gov.im

ISLE OF MAN



MR PAUL CRAINE MLC



Member of Department of Education, Sport and Culture, Vice-Chair Climate Change Transformation Board, Vice-Chair Office of Fair Trading

First Elected: 2021

CAREER SUMMARY:

Experienced teacher, school leader and secondary education adviser. Author of two books: "Isle of Man Population Atlas" (2016) and "Isle of Man Population Atlas 2" (2026). Member of Tynwald and Legislative Council since 2021. Involved in Education, Climate Change, Office of Fair Trading and Population issues.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

BIMR Cardiff 2025.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

craine@manx.net

ISLE OF MAN



MISS FRANCISCA LINDA GALE

Research and Scrutiny Support Manager



CAREER SUMMARY:

Francisca has over ten years' experience working for Tynwald, the parliament of the Isle of Man, across a range of service areas. She currently leads a small team providing procedural, administrative and research support to Standing and Select Committees, as well as delivering parliamentary research services on both a reactive and proactive basis. She has managed committee inquiries across a broad range of policy areas, including post-legislative scrutiny. Francisca also has experience in inter-parliamentary networking and capacity-building, having worked with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, and a number of parliamentary professional networks. She has completed the McGill Professional Development Certificate in Parliamentary Management.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

CPA UK 73rd Westminster Seminar (UK, 2025).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

f.gale@tynwald.org.im

N IRELAND ASSEMBLY



MR JONATHAN BUCKLEY MLA

Chair of The CPA NI Assembly Branch

First Elected: 2017

CAREER SUMMARY:

Jonathan first entered elected politics in 2013, and went on to top the poll in the Portadown DEA of Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council. In 2017, he was elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly. An alumnus of The Queen's University of Belfast, he is a former Chairman of the Queen's Democratic Unionist Association. Jonathan is an active member of the Loyal Orders and the Ulster Lambeg Drumming Association. As an alumni of the British Council's 'Future Leaders Connect Programme', he understands the importance of well formulated and debated policy as we reshape our Nation's image in the post Brexit British era. Jonathan is dedicated to his Country and has committed himself to be a champion for it's people. In the Northern Ireland Assembly, Jonathan sits on the Education and Economy Committees. He is also a member of the All-Party Groups concerning Country Sports, Suicide Prevention and Community Pharmacy. Jonathan is currently the Party's Director of Elections and Campaigns.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

BIMR 2021, 2024, 2025. CPC 2024. CPA Residency 2024.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

jonathan.buckley@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

N IRELAND ASSEMBLY



DR STEVE AIKEN OBE MLA

Deputy Speaker of the NI Assembly

First Elected: 2016

CAREER SUMMARY:

Steve was elected to the Assembly in 2016 and has been a committed champion for all constituents in South Antrim ever since. He currently serves as Deputy Speaker and is the UUP spokesperson for Finance and the Windsor Framework, sitting on both corresponding committees. He chairs the All-Party Groups on STEM and Aerospace & Space, and serves as Vice-Chair of both the APG on Ethnic Minorities and the APG on Climate Action. Steve is also a Steering Committee member of the British–Irish Parliamentary Assembly and an active member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He previously led the Ulster Unionist Party from 2019 to 2021. A proud father of four daughters, grandfather, and Royal Navy veteran, where he served as a submarine commander, Steve brings extensive real-world experience to public life. A former pupil of Belfast High School, he holds an MPhil and PhD in International Relations from Queens' College, Cambridge, with further qualifications from the Open University and King's College London.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

BIMR Conferences 2021, 2024, 2025. CWP Conferences 2015, 2024, 2025, 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

steve.aiken@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

N IRELAND ASSEMBLY



MR PAUL FREW MLA

First Elected: 2010

CAREER SUMMARY:

Paul was elected as a Councillor to Ballymena Borough Council for the Braid area in 2005, he served as Chairperson on the Ballymena Council Economic Development Committee and he was also a member of the Ballymena DPP and PCSP. In June 2010 Paul was coopted into the Northern Ireland Assembly to represent the people of North Antrim, to replace Ian Paisley MP. Paul was successfully re-elected to the NI Assembly in 2011 and he was the Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and served as a member on the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Justice Committee, and OFMDFM Committee. Following the 2016 Assembly Election, Paul was appointed as Chair of the Justice Committee. In January 2020 he was the Deputy Chair on the Committee for Finance and a member of the Justice Committee. In June 2021 Paul was appointed to the Northern Ireland Executive to serve as Minister for the Economy. A position he held until July 2021. Paul is a member of numerous All-Party Groups including Country Sports, Construction, Domestic and Sexual Violence, Football, Ethnic Minority Community, Fair Banking and Finance and Modern Slavery.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

BIMR Conferences 2024, 2025.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

paul.frew@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

N IRELAND ASSEMBLY



MISS MICHELLE MCILVEEN MLA

DUP Deputy Leader

First Elected: 2007

CAREER SUMMARY:

Michelle McIlveen graduated with a degree in politics from Queen's University and then attained a Masters in Irish politics. Michelle subsequently obtained a PGCE in politics and history. She taught at Grosvenor Grammar School for a number of years prior to taking up a management role in the family business for 10 years. She was elected to Ards Borough Council in 2005 before stepping down from the role in 2010. She has had the privilege of representing the Strangford constituency in the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007 successfully retaining her seat in 2011, 2016, 2017 and 2022. During her time in the Northern Ireland Assembly, Michelle has held a number of posts including: Deputy Chair of the Regional Development Committee; Chair of the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee; Chair of the Education Committee; Junior Minister to Peter Robinson; Regional Development Minister; Agriculture Minister; Chair of the Infrastructure Committee; and Education Minister. Michelle served as Party Secretary of the Democratic Unionist Party from 2008 until 2025. On 7th March 2025 Michelle was elected Deputy Leader of the Party.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

BIMR Conferences 2021, 2024, 2025. CWP Conferences 2015, 2024, 2025, 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

michelle.mcilveen@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

N IRELAND ASSEMBLY



MRS NICOLA CRAWFORD

CAREER SUMMARY:

Parliamentary engagement co-ordinator for the NI Assembly.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

BIMR Conferences - 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2025. CWP CONFERENCES – 2016, 2017, 2024, 2025, 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

nicola.crawford@niassembly.gov.uk

SARK

MISS SARAH HUDSON



Treasurer

First Elected: 2020

CAREER SUMMARY:

I have extensive experience managing large finance functions within the charity sector, with a strong track record in financial management, statutory reporting, operational efficiency and performance oversight. My work in the sector has also provided extensive experience supporting volunteers in delivering their roles effectively from a finance perspective, a strength I now apply in supporting the Conseillers of Sark. In my capacity as Treasurer of Sark, I am responsible for ensuring that Sark's financial management is transparent, robust and aligned with long term sustainability. My role encompasses budgeting, financial planning and close collaboration with all Committees to enable informed and responsible governance.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

treasurer@sarkgov.co.uk

SARK



MISS NATALIE TIGHE

Deputy Chair of Policy & Finance Committee

First Elected: 2024

CAREER SUMMARY:

With prior experience in the private sector managing accounts and office administration, I have a comprehensive understanding of operational systems, regulatory frameworks and community-focused service delivery. A professional with a strong background in governance, leadership, financial management and property administration, currently serving as the principal estate agent in Sark, Channel Islands – one of the world's smallest self-governing jurisdictions. My role in Sark has required close interaction with local governance structures, land ownership regulations and policy implementation, fostering an appreciation for good governance, transparency and the challenges faced by small island communities.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Attended the 54th CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference in Cardiff in June 2025 and the recent CWP Conference in Belfast in February 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

natalie.tighe@sarkgov.co.uk

SCOTLAND



MR STUART McMillan MSP



First Elected: 2007

CAREER SUMMARY:

Stuart graduated with an MBA (European) in 1997 from Abertay university, worked as a Supply Analyst for IBM, Researcher in the UK parliament for the SNP group, was an Office Manager for an MSP and was first elected to the Scottish parliament in 2007. I have been on the Scottish Parliament Branch Executive since 2018, represented the Scottish Parliament on the International Executive Committee (EXCO) for 6 years, attended 5 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences (CPC) as one of the BIMR Regional representatives and have attended BIM Regional Conferences in Guernsey (2019), Isle of Man (2022), London (2023), St. Helena (20240 and Cardiff (2025). In addition to these, I was the Regional Representative on the Constitutional Working Group changing the CPA Constitution from an English Law based document to being fit for an International Parliamentary Organisation as per the change of status. Stuart convened the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee in Session 6 and will be Convener of a new committee in Session 7. Outside of Parliament, Stuart has been a board member of Moving On Inverclyde, a third sector recovery since 2015. He became chair in 2024.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Kampala Uganda 2019, Halifax Canada 2022, Accra Ghana 2023, Sydney Australia 2024, Bridgetown Barbados 2025.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Stuart.McMillan.MSP@Parliament.scot

SCOTLAND



MR STEVEN BELL

International Relations Officer



CAREER SUMMARY:

A member of staff at the Scottish Parliament since its inaugural Session in 2002, I have worked across multiple offices including Committee Office, Education, and the Presiding Officer's Private Office. Since joining the International Relations Office in October 2010, I have provided expert support and advice to the Presiding Officer, Members, and officials on the Parliament's international engagement. This includes leading inward visits by Speakers, senior parliamentarians, diplomatic representatives, and other VIPs, as well as coordinating outward visits by the Presiding Officer and Members. I also provide logistical, procedural, and secretariat support to the Scottish Parliament's delegation to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA), covering its bi-annual plenary sessions, Steering Committee, and subject committees. In the last parliamentary session, I was seconded to the Presiding Officer's Private Office as Private Secretary. In this role, I served as principal speechwriter, advised on question selection for Topical Questions and First Minister's Questions, and acted as the key supporting official for the two Deputy Presiding Officers.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

1. CPC 2024: Sydney, New South Wales. 2. CPC 2025: Bridgetown, Barbados.

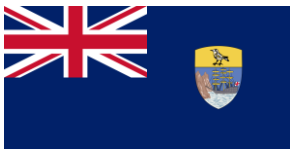
CONTACT INFORMATION:

steven.bell@parliament.scot

ST HELENA



HON DEREK THOMAS MLC



Member of Public Accounts Committee
and Member of Select Committee 2

First Elected: 2009

CAREER SUMMARY:

A member of the St. Helena Police Service from1977 -2009, progressed through the various ranks, serving the last nine years as Chief of Police. 2009 -2021, served as a local Politician, eight years of which served as a member of Executive Council and Chairman of the Public Health Committee. Undertook a number of conferences, including being a member of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Executive Committee. Was the lead representative for St.Helena at Joint Ministerial Conferences from 2016 -2021. With the support of Colleagues, managed and protected the island from COVID 19 from 2018 -2021. Worked in the United kingdom from 2022 -2025, as Head of Security and Facility Services at BBC Studios in Bristol.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Barbados.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

derek.thomas@parliament.sh

UNITED KINGDOM



MS KATE OSAMOR MP



Chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women Affected by the Justice System

First Elected: 2015

CAREER SUMMARY:

Kate is the Labour and Co-operative MP for Edmonton and Winchmore Hill, previously representing Edmonton from 2015 to 2024. She chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women Affected by the Justice System, advocating for domestic abuse survivors and challenging the disproportionate remand of Black and ethnic minority women. As the UK Government's Trade Envoy to East Africa, Kate works to strengthen trade ties with Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. She also chairs the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, promoting democratic values and human rights globally. Kate has held several frontbench roles, including Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities and Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, where she championed global equity. Before entering Parliament, she managed a GP surgery in Enfield. Throughout her political career, Kate has been a vocal advocate for vulnerable communities, pushing for greater representation, investment in public services, and social justice. Kate was elected Chair of CPA UK's Executive Committee in 2024.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: Barbados October 2025.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

kate.osamor.mp@parliament.uk

UNITED KINGDOM



BARONESS ELIZABETH SUGG CBE



Member of the Lords Select Committee on Domestic Abuse Act 2021

First Elected: 2016

CAREER SUMMARY:

Baroness Sugg is a Conservative Peer in the House of Lords, where she specialises in foreign affairs, international development, and the health and rights of women and girls. She was previously Minister for Sustainable Development at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Minister at the Department for International Development (DFID) and Minister for Aviation at the Department for Transport (DfT). Her FCDO ministerial portfolio included gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, education, children and youth, and inclusive societies, and she was appointed the first UK's Special Envoy for Girls' Education. Baroness Sugg was also Minister for the Caribbean and Overseas Territories. She resigned her Ministerial role in 2020 following the decision to cut UK international development spending for 0.7% to 0.5%. From 2010 to 2016 she served as Director of Operations and Campaigns and then Deputy Chief of Staff in No. 10 Downing Street. She serves on CPA UK's Executive Committee and leads on the EVAWG priority theme. She was also recently election to the CWP BIMR Steering Committee.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

CPA Workshop of Women's Economic Empowerment on behalf of CPA UK in Nassau, April/May 2025.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

suggl@parliament.uk

UNITED KINGDOM



DR MARIE TIDBALL MP



Members Accessibility Group Chair

First Elected: 2024

CAREER SUMMARY:

Labour MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge (2024-Present) Members Accessibility Group Chair Disability Parliamentary Labour Party Co-Chair PPS to Department for Business and Trade Former member of the Education Select Committee, Autism APPG Chair and Maternity APPG Vice-Chair Cabinet Member & Councillor, Oxford City Council (2016-2022) Co-ordinated local response to covid Raised £54,000 to save local children's centre Led Save SEND Transport campaign leading to cuts being overturned Founding Director of the Oxford University Disability Law and Policy Project (2018-2022) Co-founded the Project to improve inclusion of disability in academia, law and politics and improve accessibility University of Oxford (2017-2024) Research Associate at the Centre for Criminology Doctor of Philosophy, "The governance of adult defendants with autism through English criminal justice policy and criminal court practice".

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

First Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Regional Forum: Edinburgh February 2026.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

marie.tidball.mp@parliament.uk

UNITED KINGDOM



MRS SARAH DICKSON OBE

CEO of CPA UK

CAREER SUMMARY:

Sarah has been the CEO of CPA UK since January 2024. Sarah previously served as the British High Commissioner to The Bahamas, until July 2022 and as Ambassador to Guatemala and Honduras until 2015. Sarah has served in a variety of other diplomatic roles in Spain, Argentina and former Yugoslavia; as well as in the Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office in London. Sarah also worked as International Director at the Scotch Whisky Association.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

CPC Barbados 2025. CPA BIMR in St Helena (2024) and Wales (2025). CWP in Belfast (2026) and CPwD in Edinburgh (2026).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

dicksons@parliament.uk

UNITED KINGDOM



MS HELEN HAYWOOD



CAREER SUMMARY:

Helen has spent her career working for CPA UK in different roles. As Deputy Chief Executive Helen advises CPA UK's Officers and Executive Committee and supports the Chief Executive in CPA international and regional work and governance. She heads the Business Strategy Team which includes operations, communications, finance, human resources and monitoring and evaluation. She is secretary and adviser to the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Many.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

haywoodh@parliament.uk

UNITED KINGDOM



MR MATTHEW HAMILTON-COVERDALE



Monitoring and Evaluation Manager CPA UK

CAREER SUMMARY:

Matthew is the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK and provides secretariat support to the CPA BIMR LGBT+. He has experience working across Parliament and the international development sector, supporting programmes that strengthen parliamentary effectiveness and governance across the Commonwealth. His work focuses on using evidence and learning to inform practical improvements in programme delivery and strategic decision-making.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

BIMR Regional Conference in Cardiff 2025 and several CPA UK activities.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

hamiltonm@parliament.uk

WALES



MS NATASHA ASGHAR MS

Shadow Minister for Health and Social Care



First Elected: 2021

CAREER SUMMARY:

Born and brought up in Newport, Natasha was the first woman of colour elected to the Senedd as the regional member for South East Wales and represents over 610,000 people. Natasha was successfully re-elected in the 2026 Senedd Election to represent the newly created Casnewydd Islwyn constituency. She holds a BA in Politics and Social Policy alongside a Masters in Contemporary British Policy and media from the University of London. Before her election, Natasha worked in the banking industry, the National Assembly for Wales and in the media industry, presenting shows on television and hosting her own radio show. Natasha stood for a number of elections prior to the Welsh Parliament election of 2021 for the Welsh Assembly, Westminster, and the European Parliament. Since being elected to the Welsh Parliament, Natasha has been named ‘a force for change’ by British Vogue and named one of the top 100 ‘influential and inspiring’ women in the world by the BBC.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

BIMR Conferenes in St Helena (2024) and Wales (2025). Barbados CPC (2025).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

al.davies@senedd.wales

WALES



MR JAMES EVANS MS

Rural Affairs

First Elected: 2021



CAREER SUMMARY:

James Evans MS is the Member of the Senedd for Brycheiniog Tawe Nedd, having first been elected to the Welsh Parliament in 2021. Born and raised in rural Wales, James has a background in farming, local government and community life, which continues to shape his work in the Senedd. Before entering the Welsh Parliament, James served as a Powys County Councillor and Cabinet Member, gaining first hand experience of delivering for local communities. Since his election, he has focused on standing up for rural Wales, improving access to healthcare, supporting farmers and small businesses, and championing sport, health and wellbeing. James also has a keen interest in international affairs. In 2025, he was awarded the Commonwealth New Parliamentarian Award, recognising his contribution to parliamentary democracy during his first term in the Senedd. His approach is rooted in practical, community focused politics and a commitment to ensuring that rural Wales has a strong voice at the heart of Welsh public life.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

2025 Westminster Seminar.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

al.davies@senedd.wales

WALES



MR MATTHEW JONES MS



First Elected: 2026

CAREER SUMMARY:

Matthew Jones was recently elected to represent Sir Fynwy Torfaen in the Senedd. Prior to his election, he worked extensively both within the Senedd and in the constituency offices of its Members, including serving under Dafydd Elis-Thomas and spending five years as a senior advisor to Elin Jones. He later became the Policy and Public Affairs Lead for Wales at a cancer charity, a role he held for two years before being elected.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

-

CONTACT INFORMATION:

al.davies@senedd.wales

WALES

ADAM PRICE MS





CAREER SUMMARY:

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

WALES



MS SHAV TAJ MS



Spokesperson for Employment, Equalities and Economic Transformation

First Elected: 2026

CAREER SUMMARY:

Shav Taj MS was born and raised in Cardiff, where she continues to live with her husband and two daughters. Her father moved to the UK from Pakistan in 1958 and worked in the steelworks of Port Talbot and Cardiff. As an active trade union representative, he instilled in her a strong sense of collectivism and solidarity. Her mother and sister ran a small fabric shop in Cardiff, which became a local hub and safe space for many women from diverse backgrounds facing social and personal challenges. It was this environment that inspired the creation of the Henna Foundation. Born in 1976, Shav attended Cathays High School, where she first became politically active. At the age of 15, she began organising social justice and anti-racism campaigns. She went on to study at Coleg Glan Hafren, the University of Glamorgan and the University of the West of England, developing a strong interest in equality, economic justice and workers' rights. Before entering full-time trade union work, Shav held roles in the retail, customer service, hospitality and charity sectors. She later became a full-time officer for the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS). In 2013, she was appointed Welsh Secretary, representing thousands of civil service employees across Wales. In 2018, Shav became President of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) Cymru. In 2020, she was appointed Acting General Secretary, becoming the permanent post-holder in 2021. In doing so, she became the second woman and the first Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) person to hold the role. Shav has served as a primary school governor and chaired her local Constituency Labour Party. She has also served on the boards of the People's Health Trust and the Bevan Foundation, and was a Commissioner for the Constitutional Future of Wales. She continues to support Show Racism the Red Card and is a member of the FAW Strategic Committee. In 2026, Shav was elected as the Member of the Senedd for her home constituency of Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf. She currently serves as Welsh Labour's spokesperson for Employment, Equalities and Economic Transformation, and chairs the Welsh Labour Senedd Group.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

al.davies@senedd.wales

WALES



MR AL DAVIES

Senior International Relations and Protocol Manager



CAREER SUMMARY:

Following two years as a Welsh Language Policy Officer with the Welsh Government, I have, for the past 20 years, worked continuously for the Welsh Parliament. Since 2008 I have managed the Senedd's International Relations and have been the CPA Wales Acting Branch Secretary.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

Most BIMR Conferences since 2009. Numerous CPCs, including Barbados (2025), Sydney, NSW (2024), Accra, Ghana (2023), Halifax, NS (2022).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

al.davies@senedd.wales

GUEST SPEAKER



MS REBECCA FIGUERAS



CAREER SUMMARY:

Rebecca Figueras is a Licensed Senior Youth Worker with the Gibraltar Youth Service, HM Government of Gibraltar, with over two decades of experience in strategic management, policy development and the delivery of open-access and targeted youth work that support young people's personal, social and educational development. She leads work to rethink, reshape, and streamline youth work through the Youth Strategy, while also coordinating key initiatives such as the Youth Symposium and other participatory opportunities that amplify young people's voices and strengthen their influence in decision-making. Her approach is grounded in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which affirms children's right to express their views and have them given due weight, and in the Lundy Model of Participation, which emphasises the four essential elements of space, voice, audience and influence. In practice, this means creating safe and inclusive spaces for young people to speak, supporting them to express their views, ensuring those views reach the right decision-makers, and acting on what they say wherever possible. In July 2026, she is also organising a youth exchange with the Jersey Youth Service to promote international collaboration, broaden young people's horizons, and build confidence, skills and active citizenship.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

rebecca.figueras@gibraltar.gov.gi

GUEST SPEAKER



MRS JENNY VICTORY



CAREER SUMMARY:

Jenny began working within the field of disability when she was a teenager as she supported local disability related charities and ran the Stay and Play programme for 11 years. She then supported HM Government of Gibraltar in transferring this programme from Social Services to the GSLA. Jenny read an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Special Needs and Inclusion Studies and then completed a PGCE in which she qualified as a teacher. During her time in the UK, Jenny worked in several care homes supporting cognitive impairments and then investigated the link between special educational needs and criminality. Jenny moved back home to Gibraltar and worked as a special educational needs teacher in a special school and in both our local secondary schools. She managed the Learning Support Facility in one of the schools whereby she managed a team of teachers and SNLSAs and liaised with professionals in other departments to provide personalised support and individualised curriculums for pupils with supported needs. Jenny then qualified Positive Behaviour Support Practitioner. In 2021, Jenny set up Gibraltar's first Disability Office for HM Government of Gibraltar under the auspices of the Chief Minister. The Supported Needs and Disability Office is now directly under the responsibilities of the Minister for Disabilities and it serves as a one-stop-shop for everything related to disability, both for the community and for government. In doing so, Jenny has developed practices and policies as well as informed legislative changes. Jenny also sits on several boards to ensure that disability is at the forefront of decisions being made in our community. More importantly, Jenny is mother to a precious boy with rare chromosomal duplications which causes medical issues and profound learning disability. This ironical situation merges her professional life with her personal life and drives her to fulfil her objective of building a community that works for everyone.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

jenny.victory@gibraltar.gov.gi

GUEST SPEAKER



MR RICO CHACE



First Elected:

CAREER SUMMARY:

Rico Jacob Chace (He/Him) is a human rights consultant, social entrepreneur, and multi-award-winning creative whose work sits at the crossroads of justice, finance, and storytelling. He is the kind of speaker who doesn't just describe the world as it is — he makes audiences believe it can be different. Rico began his career on the trading floors of asset management, spending four years in finance before a global reckoning prompted him to pivot toward purpose. In the wake of Black Lives Matter, he launched Against Racism and stepped into diversity consulting — combining the analytical rigour of his financial background with a fierce commitment to equity. He has since become one of the UK's most distinctive voices on LGBTQIA+ rights, racial justice, and social impact. As Trustee and Treasurer of the LGBT+ Consortium — the 9th largest funder of LGBT+ charities in Europe — he channels strategic funding toward grassroots organisations that rarely make the headlines but change lives daily. He has chaired panels at the London Assembly, submitted evidence to the Healthcare Committee, and delivered remarks at Parliament alongside MPs from across the Commonwealth on the urgent need to hold firm against rising global homophobia. His creative work matches his advocacy in ambition. His 16th Century campaign for UK Black Pride earned a Cannes Lions shortlisting for its bold, intersectional storytelling. His March With Us campaign for Pride in London led to an invitation to the Mayor's Office, where he spoke alongside Mayor Sadiq Khan on the importance of trans inclusion and representation. Further client work has earned a Drum Award. Rico is a UNITE 2030 Youth Delegate for the United Nations, holds a Sustainable Investing Diploma from Harvard Online, and recently completed an alternative MBA at On Purpose, where he now works as a Human Rights Consultant — supporting purpose-led organisations with Theory of Change frameworks, growth strategies, and equity-focused supply chain initiatives. A Channel 4 Make Me Prime Minister semi-finalist — and the only contestant consistently praised by judges for integrity and compassion — Rico brings that same quality to every room he enters. In 2025, he was honoured as a Hero of the Year Finalist at the British Diversity Awards. Rico speaks on human rights, LGBTQIA+ and racial equity, purpose-driven leadership, social impact investment, and the power of storytelling to shift culture. He is available for keynotes, panels, parliamentary briefings, and corporate events.

UNITED KINGDOM



MS CAITLIN STARK



Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Marie Tidball MP, Member of Parliament for Penistone and Stocksbridge, UK

First Elected: -

CAREER SUMMARY:

Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Marie Tidball MP, Member of Parliament for Penistone and Stocksbridge, UK.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

caitlin.stark@parliament.uk

BRANCH	NAME	CAPACITY
CPA HQ	Ms Rachael Cox	Head of Strategy and Communications at the CPA HQ
CPA HQ	Mr Jarvis Matiya	Deputy Secreatry General

FALKLAND ISLANDS	Hon Cheryl Roberts MLA	Parliamentarian
FALKLAND ISLANDS	Mr Peter Roberts	Spouse

GIBRALTAR	Hon Judge Karen Ramagge Phillips GMH MP	Madam Speaker - Host
GIBRALTAR	Hon Dr Joseph Garcia CMG MP	Parliamentarian - Delegation Lead
GIBRALTAR	Hon Leslie Bruzon MP	Parliamentarian
GIBRALTAR	Hon Roy Clinton MP	Parliamentarian
GIBRALTAR	Hon Craig Sacarello MP	Parliamentarian
GIBRALTAR	Mr Phillip Borge Mccarthy	Branch Secretary

GUERNSEY	Mr Gavin St Pier	Parliamentarian - Delegation Lead
GUERNSEY	Ms Jayne Ozanne OBE	Parliamentarian
GUERNSEY	Mr Garry Collins	Parliamentarian
GUERNSEY	Mr Adrian Gabriel	Parliamentarian
GUERNSEY	Mr Eliot Gallienne	Branch Secretary

ISLE OF MAN	Mr Robert Mercer MSc MLC	Parliamentarian
ISLE OF MAN	Mr Paul Craine MLC	Parliamentarian
ISLE OF MAN	Miss Francisca Linda Gale	Branch Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY	Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA	Parliamentarian - Delegation Lead
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY	Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA	Parliamentarian

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY	Mr Paul Frew MLA	Parliamentarian
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY	Miss Michelle Mcilveen MLA	Parliamentarian
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY	Mrs Nicola Crawford	Branch Secretary

SARK	Miss Natalie Tighe	Parliamentarian
SARK	Miss Sarah Hudson	Treasurer

SCOTLAND	MR STUART McMillan MSP	Parliamentarian - Delegation Lead
SCOTLAND	Mr Steven Bell	Branch Secretary

ST HELENA	Hon Derek Thomas MLC	Parliamentarian

UNITED KINGDOM	Ms Kate Osamor MP	Parliamentarian - Delegation Lead
UNITED KINGDOM	Dr Marie Tidball MP	Parliamentarian
UNITED KINGDOM	Baroness Elizabeth Sugg CBE	Parliamentarian
UNITED KINGDOM	Ms Caitlin Stark	Accompanying person – Maire Tibdall MP
UNITED KINGDOM	Mrs Sarah Dickson OBE	Regional Secretary
UNITED KINGDOM	Ms Helen Haywood	Secretary
UNITED KINGDOM	Mr Matthew Hamilton-Coverdale	LGBT+ Network Secretary

WALES	Ms Natasha Asghar	Parliamentarian - Delegation Lead
WALES	Ms Shav Taj	Parliamentarian
WALES	Mr Matthew Jones MS	Parliamentarian
WALES	Mr James Evans MS	Parliamentarian
WALES	Mr Adam Price MS	Chairperson LGBT Network
WALES	Mr Al Davies	Branch Secretary

GIBRALTAR	Hon Sir Joe Bossano KCMG MP	Guest Speaker
GIBRALTAR	Hon J Ladislaus MP	Guest Speaker
GIBRALTAR	Hon A Sanchez MP	Guest Speaker
GIBRALTAR	Mrs Jenny Victory	Guest Speaker
GIBRALTAR	Ms Rebecca Figueras	Guest Speaker

UNITED KINGDOM	Mr Rico Jacob Chace	Guest Speaker

A Brief History of the Gibraltar Parliament

Gibraltar was governed directly by the Governor and military authorities after its capture in **1704** and cession to Britain in **1713**, with no elected representative institutions.

The first significant step towards civilian administration came in **1865** with the creation of the **Board of Sanitary Commissioners**, responsible for public health and municipal services.

In **1921**, Gibraltar held its **first elections** for the new **City Council**, the territory's first elected representative body, although voting rights and powers remained limited.

Democratic reforms accelerated after the Second World War:

- **1945** – The City Council gained an elected majority.
- **1947** – Women received the right to vote.

A major constitutional milestone came on **9 November 1950** with the establishment of the **Legislative Council**, Gibraltar's first legislature with elected representation. **Sir Joshua Hassan** became Chief Member and later Gibraltar's first **Chief Minister** in **1964**.

The **Gibraltar Constitution Order 1969** replaced the Legislative Council with the **House of Assembly**, providing a more advanced system of self-government.

Following approval of a new Constitution in **2006**, the **House of Assembly became the Gibraltar Parliament** on **2 January 2007**, reflecting Gibraltar's modern constitutional relationship with the United Kingdom and increased internal self-government.

Today, the Gibraltar Parliament is the central democratic institution of Gibraltar, representing the people of Gibraltar and exercising legislative authority over domestic matters. Recent milestones include its role in the Brexit process, the approval of the UK-EU Agreement in respect of Gibraltar in **2026**, and the launch of the **Gibraltar Youth Parliament** in **March 2026**.

History of the Gibraltar Garrison Library

The Gibraltar Garrison Library was founded in 1793 by Captain (afterwards Colonel) Drinkwater, the historian of the Great Siege of Gibraltar, 1779-1783. Drinkwater had, during the Siege, 'lamented the want of a public library in Gibraltar', especially under siege conditions when little by way of newspapers and reading material reached Gibraltar. It took 10 years however before the first reading rooms were opened for the officers of the Garrison. These were based at premises opposite The Convent, the Governor's residence, with an initial catalogue of around 460 volumes. Books continued to be purchased for the library and by 1799 is was decided that larger premises were needed to house the fast growing holdings of the library.

Work on the current building commenced in 1800 under the auspices of General Charles O'Hara, Governor of Gibraltar. These were completed in 1804 under the governorship of the Duke of Kent, Queen Victoria's father. The Librarian at that time was Captain Fyers (afterwards Major-General) of the Royal Engineers, but his role in the Library's evolution went much further in that he was the architect and the driving force behind the Garrison Library building as we see it today.

Captain Fyers was in fact one of the original members of the Library committee and a co-signatory of the 1799 circular to officers regarding the plans to expand the Library.

At its present location at 2, Library Ramp, the Library flourished as a meeting place for the officers of the Garrison. This early history gives us a clear indication of purpose of the library as a place for training and recreation. As an outpost (albeit a European one) of Empire, Gibraltar served as a first posting for many young officers who would, during their stay, continue in their military training before being sent further afield. A library therefore, was essential for young officers in training, and this is reflected in the collections which cover a number of areas such as the military sciences, travel narratives, of Mediterranean countries and cultures and of histories of countries such as India and Africa. The Gibraltar Garrison Library collections certainly reflect the era of colonial expansion and we are dealing with, in many respects, a collection build around notions of Empire.

The Gibraltar Garrison Library remained as a military library up until September 2011, at which point the Library was handed-over to the Government of Gibraltar. This historic move has ensured the continuity of the Library and the preservation of its collections. The Library is open daily and functions as a reference library and a research centre, providing open access to the collections and archives that form part of the catalogue. This new chapter has also brought the Library well and truly into the twenty-first century.

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