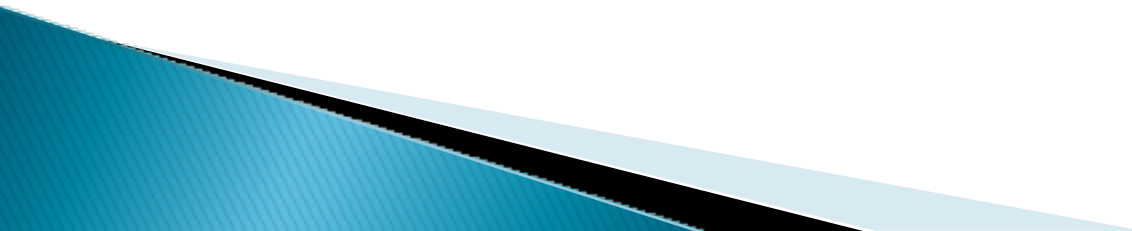


Commonwealth

An association of 54 countries working towards shared goals of prosperity, democracy and peace.

Summary

- Member countries
 - History
 - Organisation
 - Head of Commonwealth
 - Joining Commonwealth and benefits
 - Commonwealth theme for the year
 - How has it dealt with human rights violations?
 - Future?
- 

Member countries

- ▶ *There are 54 members of the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, Europe and the Pacific.*
- ▶ **Africa:** Botswana, Cameroon, Gambia, Kenya, Kingdom of Swatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.
- ▶ **Asia:** Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka.
- ▶ **Caribbean and Americas:** Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.
- ▶ **Europe:** Cyprus, Malta, United Kingdom.
- ▶ **Pacific:** Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

History

- ▶ The Commonwealth's roots go back to the British Empire, when countries around the world were ruled by Britain.
- ▶ Different countries of the British Empire gained different levels of freedom from Britain. Semi-independent countries were called Dominions.
- ▶ At the 1926 conference, Britain and the Dominions agreed that they were all equal members of a community within the British Empire. They all owed allegiance to the British king or queen, but the United Kingdom did not rule over them.

This community was called the British Commonwealth of Nations or just the Commonwealth.

Organisation

- The Commonwealth secretariat
- The Commonwealth foundation
- The Commonwealth of Learning

Member countries are also supported by a network of more than 80 intergovernmental, civil , cultural, and professional organizations.

Head of Commonwealth



King George VI was the first Head of the Commonwealth, and Queen Elizabeth II became Head when he died.

The Queen holds discussions with Commonwealth leaders. She visits the host country during each summit, meeting the leaders in individual audience and at larger formal functions.

The Queen has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe.

Joining the Commonwealth

- ▶ An applicant country should have had a historic constitutional association with an existing Commonwealth member.
- ▶ An applicant country should accept and comply with the Commonwealth's fundamental values, principles, and priorities as set out in the [1971 Declaration of Commonwealth Principles](#) .
- ▶ An applicant country must demonstrate commitment to: democracy and democratic processes and should accept Commonwealth norms and conventions, such as the use of the English language.

Benefits :

A voice for small and vulnerable states and a champion for young people. Help to strengthen governance, build inclusive institutions and promote justice and human rights.

Commonwealth theme for the year

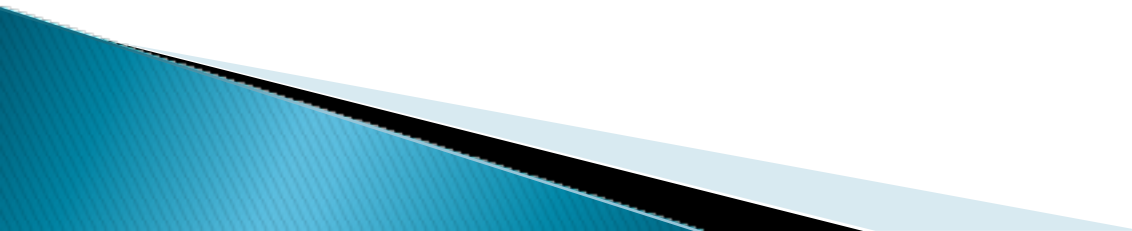


- ▶ Each year a theme is chosen for Commonwealth Day.
- ▶ The theme for the 2020 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), for Commonwealth Day and for the work of the Commonwealth is: **Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming.**

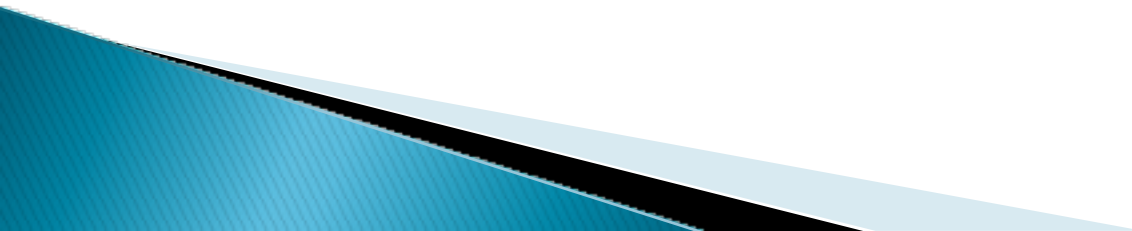
How has it dealt with human rights violations?

The organization has in the past imposed sanctions and suspended members over human rights abuses.

Some members that have been suspended:
South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Maldives.



Future after Brexit?

- ▶ Supporters argue that it would allow the UK to focus on boosting highly skilled immigration from Commonwealth countries and avoid unlimited immigration from Europe, as EU rules require.
 - ▶ Other observers are skeptical that the Commonwealth can match the benefits of EU membership.
- 

Bibliography

- ▶ <https://thecommonwealth.org/theme>
- ▶ <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/commonwealth-nations-brexit-and-future-global-britain>
- ▶ <http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/commonwealth/head-of-the-commonwealth/>

Thank you for your attention!
Esmeralda NIKOLLA.

