



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

CPA Scotland Branch Report 2021-22

Below is an overview of the CPA activities of the Scottish Parliament along with a note of non-CPA engagements which the Parliament had with other Commonwealth parliaments

CPA

September 2021

- At the Branch Executive Annual General meeting Stuart McMillan MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP and Jeremy Balfour MSP were elected as members of the Branch Executive Committee.
- Sarah Boyack MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP participated in the 50th British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Conference virtually, hosted by the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- Stuart McMillan MSP participated in virtual Executive Committee meetings.

October 2021

- Dean Lockhart MSP, Fiona Hyslop MSP, Pauline McNeill MSP and Foyso Choudhury MSP registered for the CPA UK Climate Webinar and Roundtable Series.
- Sarah Boyack MSP spoke at the *Climate Governance and Devolution* discussion paper launch.

November 2021

- Jeremy Balfour MSP attended the CPA Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) regional meeting.
- Sarah Boyack MSP and Elena Whitham MSP attended the virtual Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee meeting.
- As part of COP26, the Presiding Officer met with Stephen Twigg, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

December 2021

- Sarah Boyack MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP participated in the CPA BIMR Working Group *Climate Emergency*.

February 2022

- Jeremy Balfour MSP attended a virtual workshop on *Human Trafficking through Sport*.
- Stuart McMillan MSP participated in the Executive Committee Constitutional Amendments Working Party.

March 2022

- Jeremy Balfour MSP attended a CPA BIMR CwD meeting.
- The 51st BIMR regional conference was hosted by the Parliament of the Isle of Man and members of the Branch Executive Committee participated. The CWP Steering Committee met as part of the wider BIMR regional conference. Sarah Boyack MSP participated in person and Elena Whitman MSP participated remotely, both members of the Steering Committee.
- Ahead of Commonwealth Day 2022 Sarah Boyack MSP lodged a motion, which received cross-party support:
That the Parliament celebrates Commonwealth Day 2022 on 14 March 2022, which has the theme, Delivering a Common Future, and aims to highlight how the member countries in the Commonwealth family are "innovating, connecting and transforming" to help achieve goals such as tackling climate change, promoting good governance and boosting trade; recognises the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association over the last 12 months, mainly through virtual meetings, in discussing a range of issues, including the response to COVID-19, encouraging greater diversity in parliaments and the climate emergency; considers that these will be key themes across 2022, as will the work of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities networks, and believes that the Scottish Parliament, in its relations with Commonwealth legislatures this session, will continue to share ideas, thoughts, experiences and best practice on how to make parliaments work effectively in holding governments to account on behalf of the people that they serve.
- Pam Gosal MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP, Emma Roddick MSP, Katy Clark MSP, Paul McLennan MSP, Pauline McNeill MSP and Elena Whitham MSP registered for the *CPA UK's Virtual Roundtable on Online Violence Against Women*.

April 2022

- Stuart McMillan MSP attended the mid-year CPA Executive Committee conference in Assam, India.

June 2022

- Martin Whitfield MSP participated in the CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission to Jersey as Head of Mission.
- Jeremy Balfour MSP chaired a virtual session on *the Access to Elected Office Fund Scotland* for the BIMR legislatures.
- Sarah Boyack MSP chaired a virtual session on *the Scottish Parliament's Sustainable Development Impact Assessment Tool* for the BIMR legislatures.

August 2022

- Claire Baker MSP attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Halifax, Canada as the delegate for the Scottish Parliament. Stuart McMillan MSP also attended the conference as a member of the Executive Committee. As part of the conference Claire Baker MSP chaired the workshop *The Climate Emergency: Are Parliaments Holding Governments to Account?* and spoke at the workshop *Financial Empowerment of Women and Gender-Sensitive Budgeting*.

‘Non’ CPA

The Scottish Parliament also engaged with Commonwealth parliaments on the following occasions:

COP26

As part of COP26, the Presiding Officer met with (during visits to the Scottish Parliament):

- Hon Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Benoit Charette MNA, Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change
- Mohamed Nasheed, Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives (People’s Majlis)
- Hon Samuelu Teo, Speaker of the Parliament of Tuvalu
- Rosa Galvez, Senator for Quebec

Parliament relationship building

- In September 2021 the Presiding Officer held a virtual call with Trevor Mallard MP, Speaker of the New Zealand Parliament, to discuss the parliamentary response to COVID and interparliamentary relations.
- In October 2021 the Presiding Officer held a virtual call with François Paradis MNA, President of the National Assembly of Quebec, to discuss the parliamentary response to COVID and interparliamentary relations.
- In April 2022 Felicity Wilson MP of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly held a virtual call with Siobhian Brown MSP of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee.
- In April 2022 Hon Jonathan O’Dea MP, Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, visited the Scottish Parliament and met with the Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP, Alexander Stewart MSP, Michelle Thomson MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Siobhian Brown MSP, Stephanie Callaghan MSP and Murdo Fraser MSP.
- In May 2022 Masizole Mngqasela, Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, led a delegation to the Scottish Parliament and met with the Presiding Officer, Miles Briggs MSP, Paul McLennan MSP, Gillian Mackay MSP and Sue Webber MSP.

- In May 2022, a delegation from the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan visited the Parliament and met with Kaukab Stewart MSP and Anas Sarwar MSP.
- In June 2022 Nathan Cooper, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, visited the Parliament and met with the Presiding Officer, David Torrance MSP, Katy Clark MSP, Elena Whitham MSP and Paul O’Kane MSP.

Scottish Parliament’s Gender Sensitive Audit

In February 2022, The Presiding Officer launched an audit to review the representation and participation of women in the Scottish Parliament. The audit is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Based on work developed by both the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, all of Holyrood’s parties are represented on a board that is overseeing this work. The board will consider the audit’s findings and make recommendations for change. As well as Members from all of the political parties, the board includes senior parliament staff, pre-eminent academics and a representative of Engender (a feminist policy and advocacy organisation).