



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## 54<sup>th</sup> British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference

17 to 19 June 2025, Cardiff, Wales



Photo: Welsh Parliament

# Introduction

1. The [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#) (CPA) is divided into nine geographic regions: Africa, Asia, Australia, British Islands and Mediterranean (BIM), Canada, the Caribbean, the Americas and Atlantic (CAA), India, the Pacific and South East Asia. The BIM region is made up of branches from Alderney, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Malta, Northern Ireland, St Helena, Scotland, Wales and the United Kingdom.
2. The 54<sup>th</sup> British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference took place in Cardiff, Wales 17 to 19 June 2025. The theme of the conference was *Addressing the Needs of a Modern Parliament* which covered discussions on the Welsh Youth Parliament Experience: Lessons learned; the importance of LGBT voices in parliament; supporting the mental health and wellbeing of parliamentarians; how parliaments can enable effective and full participations of persons with disabilities at all levels; how modern parliamentarians are engaging in an evolving digital landscape; and AI delivery, training and governance in our parliaments.
3. In addition to the above sessions, the conference included the BIMR Annual General Meeting, a BIMR CWP Steering Committee meeting and the official launch of the BIMR LGBT+ Network.
4. The cross party delegation from the Scottish Parliament consisted of four Members:
  - Jeremy Balfour MSP, member of the Scotland Branch Executive Committee and Regional Champion of the [Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities Network](#) (CPwD);
  - Sarah Boyack MSP, member of the Scotland Branch Executive Committee and Vice Chair of the [Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Network](#) (CWP) BIMR Steering Committee;
  - Jamie Greene MSP, Member of the BIMR LGBT+ Network; and
  - Stuart McMillan MSP, member of the Scotland Branch Executive Committee and Regional Representative on the [CPA International Executive Committee](#) (ExCo).



Photo: Chris Hoskins Photography

## Purpose

5. The conference provided delegates with the opportunity to strengthen their regional network, and benefit from peer-to-peer exchanges on issues affecting parliaments and parliamentarians in the BIMR. It brought together 56 delegates from Cyprus, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland, Scotland, United Kingdom and Wales. In October 2025, Sark will also join the region and as such attended the conference as observers. Furthermore, international guests from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, South Africa; National Assembly of Québec, Canada; and CPA HQ also attended the conference. Alderney, Falkland Islands and St Helena were unable to attend.
6. A copy of the programme is attached at Annex A.

## Recommendations

- Jamie Greene MSP will suggest to officials in the Scottish Parliament that they look at the integrational and mutually beneficial exchanges between the Welsh Parliament and the Youth Parliament in Wales to see if there are any learnings for our Parliament to take forward.
- As a result of the “How Can Parliaments enable effective and full participation of persons with disabilities at all levels?” Jeremy Balfour MSP has held three follow up meetings with different Parliaments to discuss how their jurisdictions can take forward disability issues.
- “I believe the branch should write to the Economy and Fair Work Committee requesting them to undertake some work, or at the least, ask them to highlight in their Legacy report the importance of

scrutinising the economic impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This clearly would cross over into many areas both devolved and reserved. Notwithstanding, AI is here to stay and its full impact, economic and otherwise, still lacks full comprehension.” Stuart McMillan MSP

- Sarah Boyack MSP has shared Wales’ Diversity and inclusion guidance for political parties with the SPCB and the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee.
- Jamie Greene MSP will update MSPs at the next CPA Scotland Branch AGM on the work of the newly launched BIMR LGBT+ Network.
- “I also believe the branch could write to the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee to make them aware of the new LGBT+ Network and also the engagement the Senedd has had with the Youth Parliament in Wales. Both of these may be of interest to the committee and once again, requesting them to consider making suitable recommendations in their Legacy Report for the next parliamentary session.” Stuart McMillan MSP
- Sarah Boyack MSP will share progress being made in the areas the Scottish CPA members have been working on with colleagues in the Scottish Parliament.
- Sarah Boyack MSP will continue to spread awareness of best practice on the work in the Scottish Parliament, for example the Women’s Caucus and the Gender Audit research.

## Programme

### Wednesday 18 June 2025

#### Official Opening

7. The Llywydd, Rt Hon Elin Jones MS welcomed delegates to the conference. She gave an overview of the upcoming changes to the Welsh Parliament, including an increase in number of members from 60 to 96. She also welcomed Sark to the region.
8. Dr Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive & Clerk of the Senedd, also welcomed guests on behalf of the Senedd and Stephen Twigg, Secretary General of the CPA thanked the Welsh Branch for hosting the conference.



Photos: Welsh Parliament

### **Plenary 1: The Welsh Youth Parliament Experience: Lessons learned**

9. The Welsh Parliament established its Youth Parliament in 2018 and has recently elected its third cohort. This session examined the key components of the Welsh model and how it compares to others. The discussion explored the vision of establishing a democratically elected model, the principles of participation and the way in which the Welsh Youth Parliament interacts with the Parliamentary and Governmental structures.
10. The Llywydd chaired the session, and was joined by Delyth Lewis, WYP Manager, and Gwion Rhisiart, a former WYP Member.
11. “The session on encouraging young people to get active in politics was really interesting due to the presentation by the Welsh Youth Parliament where young members serve a two year term, are politically neutral and represent every Senedd constituency. Their strapline is “Your voice, your choice, your future.” Their current focus is the Cost of living and poverty, Crime and safety and public transport and active travel.
12. They use focus groups events and consultations – then feed back to the relevant Minister, Committee Chair and Commissioner for Children and Young people. I think the discussion was interesting in that they have made recommendations on how the school curriculum should be changed and the issue was then how do they demonstrate whether they have been successful. In Malta voter turnout has increased as a result of engagement with young people and it was suggested that we could think about preparing a good practice guide and compare what different legislatures are doing.” Sarah Boyack MSP
13. “The Welsh Youth Parliament has a similar model to ours in Scotland. It would be good for MSPs to talk with the Scottish Youth Parliament around engagement and changes they think they made to policy.” Jeremy Balfour MSP
14. “This was an excellent and uplifting session to start the conference. It was explained to us about how the Youth parliament in Wales works with 40 constituency members and 20 elected organisations and sectors, i.e. young carers, LGBTQ+ etc. This has the aim of making the Youth Parliament representative of the youth of Wales. The work programme consisted of



Regional Meetings, Regional Events, Residential Meetings and Virtual Meetings. The Cost of Living and Poverty are some of the key issues being worked on now. It was highlighted that young people who are involved are totally politically engaged and it also makes Parliamentary and Local Authority elections relatable and encourages young people to participate.” Stuart McMillan MSP

15. “This was an extremely informative session which I was impressed by. In my view the integration of the Welsh youth parliament and their primary parliament is greater than that of the Scottish model. By way of example their parliament had commissioned specific reports which fed into their committee system, led to deep conversations about legislative change and they seemed to interact more with their Senedd members. The Scottish model, in my view, is one where MSPs rarely interact with the YP or take it seriously enough. It was very informative and enlightening to see how the future of Welsh politics is in safe hands. I would be keen for the Scottish YP and SP look more carefully at the integrational and mutually beneficial work of the YP in Wales to see if there are any learnings for us here.” Jamie Greene MSP

#### **Workshop A: The importance of LGBT voices in Parliament**

16. Adam Price MS (Wales) chaired the workshop and was joined by Jamie Greene MSP, Hannah Blythyn MS (Wales), Hon Christian Santos (Gibraltar) and Graziella Attard Previ MP (Malta). The discussions explored the positive impact that honest and open discussions can have on legislation, and safeguards needed to protect those at the forefront of change.
17. “I was very pleased to be a panel speaker. It was a packed room and included not just LGBT members of parliaments but also a large number of allies and people with interest in equalities. It was heartening to hear that other legislatures not just share some of the societal issues we face in Scotland but also are making progress in dealing with prejudice. We talked about the importance of representation and diversity in politics. We talked about how to ensure that LGBT politicians feel safe and are supported inside and outside of work. We also acknowledged that in many areas we had regression in equalities, particularly the UK. It was an interesting panel chat which drew out some personal and often difficult experiences but also many positive ones such as the experiences of Malta and Gibraltar who have excellent role models in their parliaments. I was particularly heartened by the large number of non LGBT politicians who attended who were keen to understand how they address some of the difficult subjects which are currently live debates in all of our societies such as gender issues, marriage and adoption, single sex spaces and the many other live societal and political debates. There was a keen interest in learning how to address these issues to ensure they are approached sensitively and with an informed attitude.” Jamie Greene MSP

18. "I attended this workshop as a pre-cursor to the launch of the LGBTQ+ Regional Network during the conference. This was an important opportunity to hear directly from colleagues about representation in their Parliaments, their experiences where applicable and why it's important that Parliaments represent everyone in our communities. It was clear that although progress has been made, there is still so much more to do. It was clear that there is sense of feeling in recent years that progress has stalled thus it's vital to keep engaging and to recognise that Parliaments are there to serve their whole communities. Two comments that struck a chord for me were, "*It is crucial to have a humanised policy*" and "*...need to ensure that we don't become a demographic but are another part of society*". These came from two different colleagues." Stuart McMillan MSP



Photo: Welsh Parliament

### **Workshop B: How can Parliaments enable effective and full participations of persons with disabilities at all levels**

19. As BIMR Champion of the CPwD Network, Jeremy Balfour MSP chaired the workshop. He was joined by panellists Mark Isherwood MS (Wales), Kate Osamor MP (UK), and Kirstie Morphet MLC (Isle of Man).
20. The session explored why so few individuals with disability are willing to stand for election. And how parliaments can do more to help encourage people to stand for election.
21. "This was an excellent workshop which Jeremy spoke at. His opening point was that 20% of our population have some form of disability and that those who get elected get some form of support re accessibility, but how do people get elected in the first place given the barriers? But it's critical that we have inclusion by design: not for disabled people, but designed by disabled people. There's lots of initiatives across our region and I think we should share with SPCB and the Equality Committee members. For example Wales has a new Diversity Guidance for Political Parties and a Disabled People's Rights Plan for next decade. Before disabled people get to Parliament, they need advice. Again we should share best practice and

use case studies of mentoring before and after elections, advice on accessible venues, etc. Plus what research work are we doing on election and retention issues in Scotland? The policy issue I took away was our work in the CPG on Sustainable Transport where we've highlighted that access to services for people with disabilities or low incomes needs to be addressed, for example sight loss, and mobility and how we make our trains, buses, ferries and pavements accessible for everyone." Sarah Boyack MSP

22. "As a result of the seminar, I have had 3 follow up meetings with different Parliaments to discuss how their jurisdictions can take forward disability issues. These have included discussions on getting more individuals involved in standing and better access to their buildings. Mental health and hidden disabilities have also been talked about." Jeremy Balfour MSP



Photo: Welsh Parliament

## **Plenary 2: Supporting the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Parliamentarians**

23. The second plenary discussed mental health in parliaments. The panel was chaired by Rhun ap Iorwerth MS (Wales), who was joined by Marie-Louise Tardif (Québec) and Dr Leandri Hattingh.
24. "This frank and open conversation was much needed. We don't often speak about the mental health of politicians but there were so many stories shared in the room as to the shared nature of the struggles and difficulties we mutually face. Digital and social media, a changed media landscape, a loss of privacy and of course the physical and verbal abuse politics face particularly women and those from minority groups. There was an excellent presentation on coping mechanism how to support elected members and their staff and of course how we deal with our family and friends who also often suffer when we do. All in all, it was an excellent and refreshing session." Jamie Greene MSP





Photos: Welsh Parliament

## **BIMR AGM**

25. The last agenda item of day one was the BIMR AGM. Stuart McMillan MSP chaired the AGM as the most senior ExCo member and was joined by David Mundell MP (UK), member of ExCo; Jeremy Balfour MSP, BIMR Champion of the CPwD Network; and Sarah Boyack MSP, Acing Chair of the BIMR CWP Steering Committee.
26. The first item of business was the election of the new BIMR CWP Steering Committee Chair. The delegates received one vote each and Deputy Sasha Kazantseva-Miller (Guernsey) was elected.
27. Next, Stephen Twigg, Secretary General of the CPA provided delegates with an update on the CPA's status, transitioning from a charity to an international organisation.
28. This was then followed by a discussion on the BIMR constitution, led by Sarah Dickson, BIMR Secretary. The main changes to constitution was to include the CPwD and Small Branches Networks.
29. Next, the delegates were updated on the work of the working group of the 2024/25 theme "Digital transformation" and agreed to continue this theme for another year. The working group highlighted that they are looking for more members to take part, in particular women.
30. Finally, the panellists provided an update on the work of the networks and ExCo and they were also joined by Deputy Adrian Gabriel (Guernsey), BIMR representative on the Small Branches Network.
31. "I chaired the AGM as the senior regional representative. This was my final regional conference and second time chairing the AGM. In general terms it was straight forward. At the outset I did call for a 1 minute silence in respect of the recent Air India plane crash. These were Commonwealth citizens who perished. The election of the CWP Regional Chair then took place and we moved on to the rest of the agenda. The Scotland branch had a few amendments for the review of the constitution, and I'm pleased they, and all the proposed amendments, were passed unanimously. Our branch has played an active role in the CPA for some years and in my

opinion, it's important that continues. Any colleague who is successful in applying to take part in a CPA event really has an opportunity to improve their understanding of the organisation as well as increasing their network of colleagues. The issues that are spoken about are genuine and its unsurprising that other Parliaments often are trying to deal with the same challenges, but from a different backdrop." Stuart McMillan MSP



## Thursday 19 June 2025

### BIMR CWP Steering Committee Meeting

32. In the morning of day two, the BIMR CWP Steering Committee met and Sarah Boyack MSP was elected Vice Chair of the BIMR CWP Steering Committee.

33. "At the BIMR Women's Committee I reported back from the CPA Sydney Conference and highlighted the work being done on Women's Caucuses, Gender sensitive audits, the need for work on support for elected members and the need to address retention issues, and finally the issue of gender-based violence on female parliamentarians via both online and physical threats. I highlighted the work on making Gender Strengthening Funds work better and the CWP research on Gender Quotas and Adjustment Mechanisms which was published and a Toolkit on Tackling Gender Based Violence which is due to be published in December this year. Finally, we focused on how we support each other, network and sharing best practice eg digital work." Sarah Boyack MSP

### Launch of BIMR LGBT+ Network

34. The conference allowed for the official launch of the BIMR LGBT+ Network, co-founded by Jamie Greene MSP and Adam Price MS (Wales). The purpose of the network is to:

- Support and empower LGBT+ parliamentarians in the BIMR: Build a support network for LGBT+ parliamentarians in the CPA BIMR with members providing each other with mentorship and peer-to-peer support; including encouraging members to pursue leadership roles within their legislatures, while also providing a safe space for allies and those not publicly identified as LGBT+ to participate and contribute.
- Promote full representation and inclusivity in the CPA BIMR: Share good practice amongst members of the network on how to ensure that BIMR parliaments, and parliamentary groups and parties, foster inclusive political cultures encouraging LGBT+ parliamentarians to

participate and encouraging others to stand for election. Increasing the visibility of LGBT+ parliamentarians in the BIMR as role models and influential advocates for equality.

- Combat discrimination and advance legal equality in the CPA BIMR: Members of the BIMR network advocating for the repeal of discriminatory laws and promoting comprehensive anti-discrimination and equality legislation in BIMR parliaments.

35. The speakers included Elin Jones MS, Presiding Officer (Wales); Sarah Dickson OBE, BIMR Secretary; David Mundell MP (UK); Deputy Louise Doublet (Jersey); Stephen Twigg, CPA Secretary General; and Adam Price MS (Wales).
36. "The launch of the Network is an important step for our region. We are the first to do this and I am sure it will grow in stature and respect internally and across the region. I am pleased to have played a small part in this with a discussion I had with Adam Price MS from Wales after a previous conference. I am delighted that the Scottish Parliament, through Jamie Greene MSP has helped to make the network a reality. This network can be a safe space and sounding board for colleagues in our region and across the Commonwealth and I'm sure it will not be the last to be established." Stuart McMillan MSP
37. "This was a very well attended event in a beautiful setting of the Senedd. The hottest evening of the year too! The turnout was standing room only and it was well attended by both LGBT identifying elected members and also allies and interested people. The speeches were moving and interesting and I was pleased to have played my part in the establishment of this new venture on the CPA. And I am proud that the BIMR region is the first with I hope more to follow the overall attitude was very positive, even in private discussions with attendees who do not support LGBT rights in the same way there was an understanding that this was a useful thing to establish." Jamie Greene MSP
38. "There were powerful speeches at the launch of the LGBT+ network. Importance of partnerships and networking. Although we've made progress in the UK it was commented that we need to use our influence we in terms of human rights as it's still a life-or-death issue in some countries. We need role models, such as Chris Smith who was the first openly gay MP in the Commonwealth. We now have a CPA network, and we need to encourage more members to get involved. Again, we need to share best practice and use our BIMR work to encourage other CPA members to act, or example including gay rights in South Africa's constitution was game changing. We've come a long way in the Scottish Parliament's 25 years since the Section 28 debates, but we need to keep leading and supporting LGBTQ+ parliamentarians and constituents too." Sarah Boyack MSP



Photos: Welsh Parliament

39. Next, the delegates took part in two workshops.

**Workshop C: Changing the Rules of Engagement: How modern parliamentarians are engaging in an evolving digital landscape**

40. This session was an interactive workshop, where delegates discussed how elected members are using social media and emerging technologies as part of their engagement with the electorate.

41. The workshop was facilitated by Delyth Jewell MS (Wales), and Sarah Boyack MSP took part as a panellist together with Hon Khaled Sayed (Western Cape Provincial Parliament).

42. "This was a very practical session raising issues such as support for older parliamentarians and making sure that the digital transformation delivers in rural and low income communities. A good question was asked about what responsibilities do companies have which run social media platforms? Issues raised were the role of AI, algorithms which influence political debates, fake news and fake profiles, how we protect women and children from abuse. I think the need for cross party agreement on the need to act and use our Scottish Parliament media monitoring work to continue to raise awareness and share best practice, especially given our upcoming elections." Sarah Boyack MSP



Photo: Welsh Parliament



#### **Workshop D: AI as a tool in our parliaments – Delivery, Training and Governance**

43. The second workshop focussed on the use of AI in Parliaments, discussing the potential benefits and pitfalls.
44. The workshop was chaired by Dr Steve Aiken OBE (Northern Ireland) and panellists included Alun Davies MS (Wales) and Arwyn Jones, Director of Communication, Senedd (Wales).
45. “The workshop was a useful discussion about the growing importance of AI in society, how it can be used and abused in the political sphere but also the necessity for there to be regulation governing it. The majority of colleagues use AI and the use of it is growing, but there was a recognition that it does not come without challenges. One colleague highlighted the vast sums of energy and water that are required to power data centres, thus the negative environmental impact of AI. It could be argued that it isn’t ethical. However the use of the tool has assisted colleagues to undertake their roles, but it is essential that human eyes examine the potential finished item before it is used. This is to ensure accuracy of information used. It was also considered that AI has allowed a more informative level of engagement with constituents. It was also highlighted in a post Brexit scenario examining EU information with existing UK Law and the ability to scrutinise both.” Stuart McMillan MSP
46. “I really enjoyed this session as we had a frank conversation about the use of AI and tech in our day to work lives. I was surprised how many attendees are so reluctant to utilise AI in their day-to-day work. It ranged from those who have never touched it or tried it, those who do not want to and those who use it daily and tech is integrated into their very way of working. I shared my experiences of the pitfalls and advantages of AI in political environments and I felt that it was a useful session. In future this may benefit from some practical demonstrations or examples for example.” Jamie Greene MSP



Photo: Welsh Parliament

### **CPA Draft Strategic Plan – Feedback Session**

47. Next, Stephen Twigg, Secretary General of the CPA gave an overview of the CPA draft strategic plan, which will cover 2026 to 2029 and the delegates got an opportunity to feedback on their thoughts.
48. “The conference ended on a very positive note, looking to the future. There is a real energy to take things forward and have a greater influence across the world. Representing so many different cultures across the world is a real strength.” Jeremy Balfour MSP
49. “4 key points from this session. Firstly, the plan has the aim of strengthening Parliaments, CPD for Parliamentarians and Staff is available and it is aimed to represent Commonwealth values. Secondly, a priority was to strengthen the current networks and help them grow in the coming years. Thirdly, the growth of the online academy over the last 4 years is heartening and this is always open for members. Finally, the new international status of the CPA offers huge opportunities not available before as it was governed under English Charity Law. The CPA has the opportunity to become even more effective for its members and to help wider engagement internally and also with other organisations.” Stuart McMillan MSP
50. “There was a lively debate about how the CPA approaches engagement about the careful balance between being a unified voice versus a body which does not express opinion and allows for discontent and differing views. There was a feeling that some people believe we should have more certain views on things like human rights and equalities and others who believe this single voice approach simply won’t work. It was a respectful exchange of views.” Jamie Greene MSP
51. “He raised issues about how colleagues hear about CPA and how we maximise our comms, keep in touch with each other and share best practice. He outlined the 3 strategic objectives the CPA has: strengthening Parliaments, supporting elected representatives and clerks, and promoting shared commonwealth values, human rights and sustainable development. There’s work on cross cutting issues such as addressing support for women, and colleagues with disability and support for small branches who don’t have the resources we have, ensuring our colleagues have access to the Online Academy and CPA residential events. The opportunities created by the new status which has UK Government funding for the next three years. They are also looking at links to organisations such as the IPU and are considering philanthropic funding, particularly given the impact of the climate crisis not just on BIMR members, coastal areas & island states, sub-Saharan Africa members and in east Asia. Change is happening with sea level rises, temperature rises impacting on food production, tourism changing. We need to identify opportunities as well as the challenges that need to be addressed.
52. I think going forward the issues we should be feeding back to our colleagues is the progress being made in the areas we’ve been working

on, and the sharing of best practice on our work in the Scottish Parliament, for example our Women's Caucus and the Gender Audit research. Given the Scottish Parliament elections next year we need to encourage both new MSPs who will not be aware of the work of the CPA and returning MSPs on the variety of ways that they can get involved in the CPA through online seminars, attending events and reading the Parliamentarian." Sarah Boyack MSP



Photo: Chris Hoskins Photography

## Feedback Session

53. The final session of the conference was an interactive feedback session where the reporters, Speaker Daylin Mitchell (Western Cape Provincial Parliament), Jamie Greene MSP, Deputy Montfort Tadier (Jersey) and Natasha Asghar MS (Wales), highlighted the three key takeaways from each workshop.



Photos: Welsh Parliament

## Feedback

54. "Attending the regional conference in person is always important, not only because of the official programme but also because of the additional conversations that take place engaging and learning about other parliamentary systems. In addition, the scale of our region goes from the UK parliament with over 60million people to the soon to be newest

member – Sark with just over 500 people. We can all learn from and assist each other to help improve political representation.” Stuart McMillan MSP

55. “Overall, I really enjoyed the visit. I made new friends from across the region, it also reminded me that politics is a very unique privileged and worldwide vocation and others are in the same boat battling the same issues and debates and sometimes sharing those experiences in private is really helpful and therapeutic.” Jamie Greene MSP

56. “It was a real privilege to attend the BIMR Conference at Cardiff in June this year as one of our Scottish Branch representatives. Having been Acting Chair of the BIMR CWP Executive Committee since last summer it was good to report back on the work of our Executive Committee and to network with women delegates attending the Conference. It was also an excellent opportunity to feed in the discussions both from our Scottish CWP BIMR conference this March and the CPA Sydney Conference last November. The event was well organised and this was a good opportunity for our Scottish Branch representatives to feedback on our work in the CPA, with Stuart MacMillan’s work on the CPA Executive committee and Jeremy Balfour’s work as a Regional Champion promoting the on our work on the CPwD network of Parliamentarians with Disabilities. I also enjoyed the opportunity to network about my work as an MSP in relation to the work I do as a substitute Committee member of the Net Zero Committee, the CPGs I am involved in and the members bill on Wellbeing and Sustainable Development that I am working on.” Sarah Boyack MSP

## Conclusion

57. The 54th British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference took place in Cardiff, Wales 17 to 19 June 2025, and the Scottish Parliament was represented by Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Jamie Greene MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP.

58. The conference provided delegates with the opportunity to strengthen their regional network and benefit from peer-to-peer discussions on issues affecting parliaments and parliamentarians in the BIMR. Sessions covered a wide range of topics including the importance of LGBT voices in parliament; supporting the mental health and wellbeing of parliamentarians; how parliaments can enable effective and full participations of persons with disabilities at all levels; how modern parliamentarians are engaging in an evolving digital landscape; and AI delivery, training and governance in our parliaments.

59. The conference brought together 56 delegates from Cyprus, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland, Sark, Scotland, United Kingdom and Wales. Furthermore, external guests from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, South Africa, National Assembly of Quebec, Canada, and CPA HQ also attended the conference.



60. The CPA Scotland Branch would like to thank our hosts the Welsh CPA Branch for their very warm welcome and kind hospitality.

**International Relations Office**

September 2025

## **Annexes**

### **Annex A: Programme**

#### **Tuesday 17 June 2025**

19:00 Informal Welcome Reception

#### **Wednesday 18 June 2025**

08:45 Official Opening

09:15 Plenary 1: The Welsh Youth Parliament Experience: Lessons learned

10:45 Workshop A: The importance of LGBT voices in Parliament

Workshop B: How can Parliaments enable effective and full participations of persons with disabilities at all levels

13:45 Plenary 2: Supporting the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Parliamentarians

15:15 BIMR AGM

17:45 Informal Reception

#### **Thursday 19 June 2025**

08:00 BIMR CWP Steering Committee Meeting

09:30 Launch of BIMR LGBT+ Network

11:00 Workshop C: Changing the Rules of Engagement: How modern parliamentarians are engaging in an evolving digital landscape

Workshop D: AI as a tool in our parliaments – Delivery, Training and Governance

13:15 CPA Draft Strategic Plan – Feedback Session

14:20 Interactive Feedback Sessions from Workshops Rapporteurs:  
3 Key Takeaways in 7 Minutes

15:00 Closing Remarks

18:30 Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner