



British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union Newsletter July 2013

Recent months have seen a number of activities by the BGIPU in Westminster, with visiting Parliamentary delegations from Senegal, Bolivia and Somalia. We have also held a diverse range of policy-based lectures and events, including a preparatory event on Drug Policy Reform in the lead up to our Parliamentary Seminar on this subject in October.

We are looking forward to the Autumn session with events planned to mark the International Day of Democracy in September and preparations for the IPU Assembly in Geneva in October.

Over the recess period the Secretariat will be putting in place arrangements for a range of inward and outward parliamentary exchanges and Westminster based events.

We wish you all a happy and productive summer recess period and look forward to working with you all in the Autumn.

Rick Nimmo
Director, BGIPU

BGIPU Parliamentary Seminar on Drug Policy Reform

28 October 2013 - by *BGIPU*



The BGIPU is hosting a seminar in Westminster on Drug Policy Reform from 28 to 30 October. The invitation is being extended to Latin American, West African and European Parliaments. The BGIPU will host this seminar to encourage an open and honest debate on global drugs policy reform among parliamentarians from countries that are especially affected by this issue from the drugs supply and demand side, to consolidate the role of parliamentarians, as legislators and opinion leaders with regards to this issue.

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BGIPU Week of events to mark the International Day of Democracy 2013

9 September 2013 - by *BGIPU*



The BGIPU will be marking the International Day of Democracy 2013 on Sunday 15 September promoting the work of our membership with a series of thematic events across Parliament during the week of 10 September. The events will embrace the theme of this year's International Day of Democracy "Strengthening Voices for Democracy". The Secretariat will be organising a Diplomatic reception

with a keynote speaker to discuss the theme, an information stand on the work of the BGIPU and IPU in the Houses of Parliament and a charity Pub Quiz.

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BGIPU Capacity Building Visit with Members of the Somali House of People

8 July 2013 - by *BGIPU*



The BGIPU hosted a visit of Somali Parliamentarians to the UK for a capacity building and parliamentary strengthening programme. The 5 Members of the House of People met with Members, senior officials and clerks to learn about the functioning and procedures of the Westminster system. The visit formed part of the support offered by HMG to the Somali government and Parliament in establishing and strengthening the Somali parliamentary institution, since its re-establishment in August 2012.

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Current trends in Global Drug Policy Reform & the Organization of American States

26 June 2013 - by *BGIPU*



To mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on the 26th of June, the BGIPU offered an evening lecture in which the Ambassador of Colombia presented the recent Organization of American States report on the Drug Problem in the Americas to Parliamentarians and Baroness Meacher and John Mann MP, UK Parliamentary envoys to the 43rd General Assembly of the OAS, discussed the role parliamentarians can play in addressing illicit drugs and related transnational crime issues.

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Parliamentarians from Bolivia seek greater understanding from UK counterparts

17 June 2013 - by *BGIPU*



A delegation from the Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia undertook an inter-parliamentary visit to the UK Parliament from 17-21 June 2013. In their exchanges with UK parliamentarians, the delegation highlighted the significant changes which had occurred in Bolivia in recent years and discussed economic and social issues, criminal justice issues, human rights, environmental issues and developments in Latin America.

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Tackling Violence Against Women in Politics

6 June 2013 - by *BGIPU*

On the 6th of June a panel including Mary Macleod MP, Roberta



Blackman Woods MP and Dina Medland, a freelance journalist for the Financial Times, discussed, under the auspices of the BGIPU, whether stereotyping, misogyny and harassment through the media constitutes a form of violence against women in politics, and what measures may be taken to address such issues.

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28th Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

28 May 2013 - by *BGIPU*



The Steering Committee meeting was held in Brussels in the European Parliament, who co-host the Parliamentary Conference with the IPU. The prime purpose of the Meeting was to prepare for the Bali Ministerial Conference in early December 2013.

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Seizing the Opportunity: Enhancing UK engagement with Emerging Powers

16 May 2013 - by



BGIPU and the FCO co-hosted a roundtable discussion between parliamentarians and visiting UK Heads of Mission on 16 May under the chairmanship of FCO Minister, Hugo Swire MP. The discussion focused on efforts by the UK Government to strengthen bilateral relationships with key emerging powers in order to expand opportunities for the UK. There was detailed consideration of the important role parliamentarians could play in ensuring the UK was well-positioned to take better advantage of the opportunities such fast growing economies present.

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Protecting every child everywhere: Tackling sexual exploitation of children in tourism

9 May 2013 - by *BGIPU*



Gavin Shuker MP highlighted the importance of strong political leadership in ensuring adequate protection of children from sexual exploitation abroad by British tourists when he chaired a lunchtime lecture hosted by the British Group of the IPU and ECPAT UK on the 9th of May. A key focus of the discussion was on raising awareness among parliamentarians, including the practical steps they could take in tackling the sexual abuse of children overseas by British sex offenders.

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MPs from Senegal urge greater UK engagement during visit to Westminster

22 April 2013 - by *BGIPU*



A delegation from the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal undertook an inter-parliamentary visit to the UK Parliament from 22-26 April 2013. The delegation was led by Mr Mamadou Lamine Diallo from the Benno Bok Yakaar (BBY) Parliamentary Group, Mr Modou Diagne Fada, President of the Liberal and Democrat Parliamentary Group, Mr Thierno Bocoum (BBY), Mrs Penda Seck Diang (BBY) and Mrs Khadidiatou Diedhiou, an independent member of the National Assembly.

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BGIPU FORTHCOMING LOOK

The BGIPU have a number of events and programmes planned for the Autumn as follows;

- BGIPU Week of events to mark **International Day of Democracy** | 9 – 13 September 2013
- **129th IPU Assembly** | Geneva | 7 - 9 October 2013
- BGIPU International **Seminar on Drug Policy Reform** | 28 – 30 October 2013
- BGIPU Inward Delegation from **Haiti** | 18 - 22 November 2013

If you would like to register your interest in any of the above events or would like further information please contact the [Secretariat](#)

BGIPU

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