



## British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union Newsletter October 2012

Commencing with the launch of our new website, the BGIPU have had a very productive few months and are looking ahead to an equally active Autumn programme. Recent activities include a series of events in Westminster to mark the 2012 International Day of Democracy, insightful delegation visits to Indonesia and Colombia and the participation of Group members in IPU parliamentary conferences; one on HIV/AIDS and another on the future of the WTO, both of which proved to be valuable in holding up existing global policy settings to greater scrutiny and debate.

We hope that you will find this newsletter useful and informative and that this will encourage you to participate in our upcoming events.

Rick Nimmo  
Director, BGIPU

### International Parliamentary Conference on Gender and Politics: 'Women in Parliament, Politics and Public Life'

6 November 2012 - by *BGIPU*



The proportion of women in parliaments throughout the world is slowly increasing; however, significant barriers to participation remain. The CPA UK/BGIPU conference on gender and politics will explore how parliamentarians can play a role in making the political process and opportunities in public life more accessible to women, and the far-reaching benefits of equality in decision-making.

[Print report / Continue reading →](#)

### Learning about complexities of narcotics trade and conflict in Colombia

24 September 2012 - by *Greg Hands MP*



This was the first BGIPU delegation to Colombia since 2003, and the timing could hardly have been more opportune, with the peace process between the Government and the FARC rebels starting on 5th October. Apart from the peace process, the delegation's primary interests were boosting bilateral trade and investment, learning more about joint efforts to combat drugs, human rights in the country and deepening our inter-parliamentary ties.

[Print report / Continue reading →](#)

## IPU Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

25 September 2012 - by *Lord Harrison*



The Steering Committee for the IPU Parliamentary Conference was held in Geneva on 25 September 2012. The meeting threw up some very interesting issues throughout the day including; Should the WTO continue? Should we continue to support Multilateralism? Was the proliferation of Institutions holding up trade liberalisation? Were the voices of the Business community too absent from the WTO?

[Print report](#) / [Continue reading](#) →

## BGIPU Week of events to mark the International Day of Democracy on 15 September

15 September 2012 - by *BGIPU*



The BGIPU marked the International Day of Democracy on 15 September with a range of events reflecting this year's theme by focusing on issues related to dialogue and inclusiveness. Events included the Speaker and the Lord Speaker [commemorating the work of the "father" of the IPU, Randal Cremer](#), an information stand to promote the work of the Group and [a diplomatic reception](#) hosted by Chairman, Robert Walter MP. The Secretariat also arranged a [fundraising Quiz night](#) to raise funds for two charities in Uganda.

[Print report](#) / [Continue reading](#) →

## Defending the Rights of Parliamentarians

11 September 2012 - by *BGIPU*



In cooperation with the APPG on Human Rights, the BGIPU hosted a discussion on 'Defending the Rights of Parliamentarians' chaired by Robert Walter MP – Chairman of the BGIPU. The discussion took place during BGIPU week as part of the BGIPU marking the International Day of Democracy.

[Print report](#) / [Continue reading](#) →

## AIDS in 2012: What will it take to stop the epidemic? Parliamentary Meeting in Washington

22 July 2012 - by *Pamela Nash MP, Rt Hon the Lord Fowler*



The Parliamentary meeting organised by the IPU on the occasion of the XIX International AIDS Conference "AIDS in 2012: What will it take to stop the epidemic?" provided an opportunity for Parliamentarians from over 20 countries to discuss the role that they can play in tackling the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

[Print report](#) / [Continue reading](#) →

## Strengthening relationships with Indonesia

24 June 2012 - by *Rt Hon Anne McGuire MP*

At the end of June six senior Parliamentarians went to Indonesia to



encourage broader understanding of UK interests. This included enhancing prospects for trade, investment and international cooperation. It gave the opportunity for UK Parliamentarians to better appreciate Indonesia's achievements as a robust parliamentary democracy.

[Print report / Continue reading →](#)

## BGIPU Lunchtime Discussion on Women's Rights in Afghanistan

3 July 2012 - by *BGIPU*



In conjunction with ActionAid's Parliamentary Network on Women's Rights in Afghanistan, participants discussed the practical steps towards addressing key challenges on Women, Peace and Security. The Lord Speaker, Baroness D'Souza CMG, opened the discussions with John Spellar MP, Margot James MP, Lucia Fry, ActionAid Head of Policy and Anushka Asthana of The Times forming the Panel.

[Print report / Continue reading →](#)

## BGIPU FORTHCOMING LOOK

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

- BGIPU & CPA UK Briefing on **UN Women and the Commission on the Status of Women** | 18 October | 1100-1200 | IPU Room
- **127 IPU Assembly** | 21 – 26 October | Quebec City, Canada
- BGIPU Inward Delegation from **Kosovo** | 29 October – 1 November 2012
- **Parliamentary Suit Drive** in Support of Dress for Success | 30 October – 2 November 2012 | Westminster Hall
- BGIPU & CPA-UK International Parliamentary **Conference on Gender and Politics** | 6 – 8 November 2012
- IPU Parliamentary **Conference on the WTO** | 15 -16 November | Geneva
- BGIPU **Lecture with Dr Moncef Marzouki, President of Tunisia** and Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi | IPU Room | Tuesday 27 November
- BGIPU **Annual General Meeting** & Election of Executive Committee Members | 5 December | 1600 | Atlee Suite, Portcullis House
- BGIPU Inward Delegation from **Saudi Arabia** | December 2012 | Dates to be confirmed
- IPU **Parliamentary Hearing at the UN** | 6- 7 December 2012 | New York

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