



British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union Newsletter July 2014

As the Summer recess of Parliament approaches we can look back on a successful and active period of work.

As a founding member of the IPU, we were delighted to participate in a ceremony in Geneva to mark the 125th anniversary of the organisation. As the oldest multi-lateral political organization in the world, the IPU, with the BGIPU as a leading member, continues to provide an effective platform for national parliaments to work together for peace and democracy throughout the world.

In pursuit of this the BGIPU has welcomed to Westminster delegations from Armenia, Sudan and Portugal, and contributed highlighting parliamentary engagement in the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in cooperation with CPA UK.

We have a busy programme ahead with a delegation travelling to Georgia in the near future, and Nepal, Norway, Guatemala and Honduras in the Autumn amongst others.

We will also be hosting an International Parliamentary Seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty 3-5 November in Westminster and encourage our members to participate.

The Secretariat will be available over the summer period should you have any queries regarding our activities and look forward to working closely with Members on our Autumn programme.

Rick Nimmo | Director, BGIPU

Looking Ahead: BGIPU Parliamentary Seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty

3 November 2014 - by *BGIPU*



In November 2014 the BGIPU will bring together parliamentarians from across the globe for a Seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty. The purpose of the BGIPU International Seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty will be to bring together parliamentarians from around the globe to build upon the existing momentum surrounding ratification of the Treaty, encourage debate on best practice for legislation and domestication of the ATT and discuss implementation models for parliamentarians moving forward in oversight and enforcement of the ATT at national and international level.

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Armenian delegation seeks deeper engagement with UK

7 July 2014 - by *BGIPU*



BGIPU hosted a parliamentary delegation from the National Assembly of Armenia to Westminster from 7-11 July 2014. The visit was a key opportunity to engage with parliamentary counterparts from Armenia on its perspectives on key regional peace and security issues and explore ways to further advance bilateral relations. The

programme, including visits to Oxford and Reading, also provided the delegation with opportunities to learn more about the scrutiny and oversight functions of UK Parliamentary Committees, explore education issues and learn about the constituency role of MPs.

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125th Anniversary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

30 June 2014 - by *BGIPU*



The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) celebrated 125 years of global parliamentary action on resolving conflicts and building democracy on 30th June in Geneva on the anniversary of its creation in 1889.

The event discussed some of the many challenges democracy faces today. The anniversary date of 30th June also marked the end of Anders B. Johnsson's tenure as IPU Secretary General after 16 years during which the Organization has worked in all regions to promote and build democracy.

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Sudan delegation highlights women's role in politics and peace

23 June 2014 - by *BGIPU*



BGIPU hosted an all-women parliamentary delegation from Sudan to Westminster from 23-27 June 2014. The visit was a key opportunity to engage with parliamentary counterparts from Sudan on developments in the country and to engage on specific gender issues relating to political empowerment and the role of women in peace efforts. The visit also provided an important opportunity to gain insights into human rights issues in Sudan with the delegation keen to present its perspectives on issues relating to religious freedom, women's rights and justice issues.

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Parliamentarians commit to ending sexual violence in conflict

12 June 2014 - by *BGIPU*



In partnership with CPA UK, BGIPU co-hosted an international parliamentary event on the fringe of the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict on 12 June which was chaired by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger. The event - "Implementing the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative" - focused on concrete actions that could be taken by parliamentarians, bringing together parliamentary delegates to the Summit, British MPs and civil society experts to share examples on legislation, private members' bills, and committee work aimed at addressing sexual violence issues.

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Portugal MPs reaffirm close partnership with UK in Europe

9 June 2014 - by *BGIPU*



In close cooperation with the APPG for Portugal, we hosted a parliamentary delegation from Portugal to the Palace of Westminster from 9-11 June 2014. The visit served to highlight the long-standing and historic nature of relations between Portugal and the United Kingdom and the many common perspectives and interests shared by parliamentarians in both countries. Portuguese delegates expressed strong support for the UK remaining an EU member, including as an active partner for Portugal and others in pursuing EU reform efforts.

BGIPU FORTHCOMING LOOK

BGIPU Outward Delegation to Georgia | 20 - 24 July

IPU 9th Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament | 4 - 5 September

BGIPU Charity Pub Quiz | Moncrieff's Bar | 17.30 | 10 September

BGIPU Outward Delegation to Nepal | 15 - 19 September

BGIPU Outward Delegation to Norway | 29 September - 3 October

BGIPU Discussion | The UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace & Security | IPU Room
| 12.45 | 15 October

131st IPU Assembly | Geneva | 12 – 16 October

BGIPU Executive Committee Meeting | 21 October

BGIPU International Parliamentary Seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty | Attlee Suite,
Palace of Westminster | 3 – 5 November

BGIPU Outward Delegation to Guatemala and Honduras | 10 - 15 November

IPU Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations | New York | 19 - 20 November

BGIPU Inward Delegation of Parliamentarians from Romania | 24 – 28 November

BGIPU Annual General Meeting | Attlee Suite | 3 December

BGIPU

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