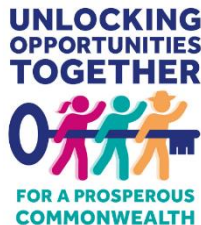




INDEPENDENT FORUM OF COMMONWEALTH ORGANISATIONS

COMMONWEALTH DAY GREETINGS FROM IFCO!



Warm greetings on Commonwealth Day

From the IFCO Steering Group



IFCO Commonwealth Day Informal Gathering Blue Boar Inn, Tothill Street, Westminster 16.00 – 18.00

It has now become expected (not quite a tradition) that there will be an informal gathering for Accredited Organisations between the Westminster Abbey service and the Commonwealth Secretariat evening reception. We will be gathering at the Blue Boar Inn, Tothill Street, Westminster, a few minutes' walk from the Abbey and only a short distance across St James Park to the reception at St James Palace. Drink and food will be available to purchase. Colleagues from the Secretariat and Foundation may call in. There will be plenty of chat and friendship. Do join us regardless of whether you are going to the Abbey or reception.

IFCO Deadlines – nominations and approval of the constitution



The widely publicised deadline for nominations to the new IFCO Steering Committee is Friday 6th March at 23.59 UTC/UK time. Nomination forms have been sent to all the 78 Accredited Organisations on the IFCO database. Forms must be sent to IFCO.CMW@gmail.com.

The deadline for the ballot to endorse the draft constitution, which has been subject to months of consultation, has been extended to Tuesday 10th March at 23.59 UTC/UK time. The link for AOs was emailed in February.

IFCO meeting dates

The current Steering Group is meeting online on Friday 13th March 2026 14.00-15.30 UTC/UK time. The new Steering Committee is scheduled to have a hybrid meeting on Monday 13th April linked to the Commonwealth Secretariat briefing for AOs on CHOGM preparations. The next hybrid IFCO conference for all AOs is scheduled to on Monday 27th April.

CHOGM 2026 Update Meeting with Accredited Organisations

The Secretariat has invited Accredited Organisations to a CHOGM 2026 update meeting on Monday 13 April 2026 12.30-14.30hrs UK time. If an AO has not received an invitation, contact partnerships@commonwealth.int.



POSTPONED - Commonwealth Youth Awards



The Commonwealth Secretariat said on Friday 6th March: "We regret to inform you that the awards ceremony, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 11 March 2026, will be **postponed** until further notice. The decision was made in light of the prevailing circumstances surrounding the developments in the Middle East. The safety of the award winners remains a priority and therefore, we have taken the decision to cancel their travels to the UK."

Westminster Abbey Service – BBC cancels coverage



The BBC has announced that it will not televise the annual Commonwealth Day service from Westminster Abbey. According to the Daily Mirror, "the broadcaster won't be showing coverage of the royals at the Commonwealth Day service but will air *Escape to the Country* instead".

A BBC spokesperson said: "Our decision not to broadcast the Commonwealth Day ceremony reflects the difficult choices we have to make in light of our funding challenges. BBC News plans to cover the service across its platforms, including the BBC One bulletins and rolling news channel."

Complaints can be sent to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/contact/complaints/make-a-complaint/>

CEC Education Event on Monday 9th March 11.00-12.30



In the Commonwealth Day Lecture 2026, Neil Leitch OBE will discuss what values are essential to a good education, how they are linked to living a good life, and how this aligns with the values of the Commonwealth. The lecture is organised by [Council for Education in the Commonwealth](#) (CEC). More details about the event [here](#).

Commonwealth Week Business and Investment Events

Invitations have been issued to meet the inaugural [Commonwealth Investment Network Accelerator Cohort](#) of leading climate, nature, agriculture, infrastructure, circular economy and energy businesses from across the Commonwealth, at a Showcase Event on Tuesday 10th March 12.00-17.30. This invite-only event will include pitches from each of the companies and projects, followed by an opportunity to connect with other experts in the space. For further information contact Commonwealth Secretariat Partnerships partnerships@commonwealth.int .

COMMONWEALTH

Enterprise and Investment Council

The Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC), has issued invites to a panel discussion and networking reception on *Climate Resilience in the Commonwealth: Mobilising Investment and Innovation in*

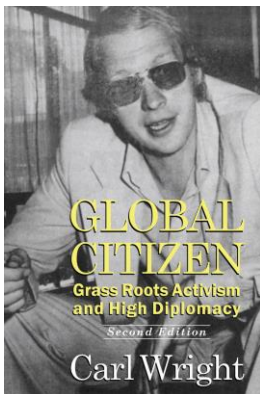
the Blue Economy. Closing date for applications is Friday, 6 March 2026 to events@cweic.org .



Commonwealth Law Ministers meet in Fiji



The Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting was convened in Fiji under the theme: '*Anchoring Justice in a Changing Tide: Strengthening the Rule of Law for a Resilient Future*'. "The meeting took place against a backdrop of a steady global [decline](#) in the rule of law, with billions of people still [lacking](#) meaningful access to justice." Highly significant outcome statements included [Declaration on Access to Justice](#), [Nadi Declaration on Democratic Resilience and Participation](#), and [Military Justice Principles and Model Law for smaller Armed Forces](#). [Read the 2026 Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting's Outcome Statement](#).



Global Citizen – second edition published

Carl Wright's powerful and timely memoir, *Global Citizen: Grass Roots Activism and High Diplomacy* addresses the escalating global crises of the last three years – marked by conflict, rising poverty and a dangerous surge in Far-Right populism. It deals extensively with Commonwealth matters. Wright argues: "*the geopolitical events of the past three years, if anything, underline the core messages of Global Citizen on the need for international cooperation as opposed to xenophobic nationalism which causes so much social division and human suffering.*" www.hansibpublications.com

Information about the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO)

IFCO is sustained on a voluntary basis, providing mutual support to Commonwealth Accredited Organisations.

The IFCO Secretariat can be contacted at IFCO.CMW@gmail.com .