



COMMONWEALTH WOMEN'S FORUM

InterContinental Hotel, St. Julians, Malta
22 - 24 November 2015



CHOGM
Malta 2015



Women's
Forum



The Commonwealth

01.

Welcome



Her Excellency
Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca
President of Malta

It is indeed an honour for Malta to be hosting the first Women's Forum as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Convening a Women's Forum shows the Commonwealth's commitment to giving recognition to the role of women in society today, and should highlight the opportunities for the often untapped potential of women to the socio-economic agenda and their competence as leaders. The empowerment of women is adamant to the development of an equal and just society throughout the world.

In view of this, the Women's Forum needs to also bring to the fore the suffering of women across the globe. Even today, women and girls are experiencing harsh realities in their everyday life; as girls are still being denied education, abduction from their families for sexual exploitation, made to suffer the horrific practice of Female Genital Mutilation, and be victims of violence and cruelty.

The time is ripe to move from rhetoric to action. May the Women's Forum move beyond discussions to entice the Heads of Government present to act to ensure the wellbeing of women and mark an end to the atrocities women and girls are experiencing today. The Commonwealth can effectively be an inspiration to the world in bringing about change in the lives of women and girls.

I augur successful and effective discussions at the Women's Forum, so that women and girls all over the Commonwealth may have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

02.

Women Ahead: Be All That You Can Be

The theme chosen for this inaugural Commonwealth Women's Forum is a clear message supporting the empowerment of women. Women have the potential to change their own economic status, as well as that of the communities and countries in which they live. Yet more often than not, women's economic contributions go unrecognised, and unequal opportunities between women and

men continue to hamper women's ability to empower themselves and improve their lives. In societies where equality for all is not just a notion but a tangible reality, communities are enriched by the diversity of contributions which transcend gender, in all aspects of life. This is the future we envisage for the one billion women who live in the Commonwealth.

03.

Overview

Women's economic empowerment is increasingly viewed as the most important contributing factor to achieving equality between women and men. Economically strengthening women – who are half the world's workforce – is not only a means by which to spur economic growth, but also a matter of advancing women's human rights.

This year Malta will host the first ever Commonwealth Women's Forum. The intention is for the Commonwealth Women's Forum to become a permanent feature in CHOGM programmes and be the

focal point for discussions on women's contributions in societies within the Commonwealth and beyond. The Forum will provide a platform for women to discuss challenges they face, share best practice and agree on actions and recommendations to carry forward to the leaders of the Commonwealth.

It will be attended by government leaders, women leaders, civil society representatives and business leaders from across the Commonwealth.

Objectives of the 2015 Women's Forum:

- Place **women's social and economic issues** on the Commonwealth agenda.
- Bring together people from across the globe to share **stories of success**.
- Raise **awareness** about matters affecting **women's development** in order to tackle poverty and inequality.
- Create a **networking platform** for building new relationships and reinforcing existing ones.
- Encourage **younger generations** to secure fulfilment in their lives and those of others.

104. Programme

22nd November 2015 - INAUGURATION CEREMONY

19.30	<p><i>Opening Remarks by</i> H.E. Kamlesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General The Hon Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta <i>Address by</i> H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta</p>
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23rd November 2015 - DAY ONE

09.00 - 9.30	<p>Official Opening <i>Welcome by</i> Ms Phyllis Muscat, Head, CHOGM 2015 Taskforce, Ms Amelia Kinahoi-Siamomua, Head of Gender, Commonwealth Secretariat Dr Claire Cassar, Chair, Women's Forum Subcommittee</p>
09.30 - 10.00	<p>Main Address Dr Lakshmi Puri <i>Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</i></p>
10.00 - 11.30	<p>FIRST PANEL SESSION - WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP Lead Speaker - The Hon Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Parliament, Bangladesh Moderator - Prof Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand Panel Topics and Speakers * Women's Political Leadership - Dr Josephine Ahikire, Assistant Professor, Makerere University, Uganda Ms Joanna Maycock, Secretary General, European Women's Lobby * Women's Corporate Leadership - Dr Shaheena Janjuha-Jivraj, Co-founder BoardWalk and Senior Lecturer, Henley Business School * Women in the Judiciary - Dr Karen Brewer, General Secretary, CMJA Question and Answer Session</p>
11.30 - 12.00	<p>Tea/Coffee Break <i>Group photograph</i></p>
12.00 - 13.30	<p>SECOND PANEL SESSION - WOMEN, MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT Lead Speaker - Ms Jackie Leonard, Presenter, The Newsroom, BBC World Service Moderator - Dr Carmen Sammut, Head of Department, International Relations, University of Malta Panel Topics and Speakers * Women, Media and Communication - Ms Baria Alamuddin, Foreign Editor, Al Hayat Dr Brenda Murphy, Senior Lecturer, Gender Studies, University of Malta * Women's Technology and Innovation - Dr Bola Olabisi, CEO, Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Chief Strategic Planning, International Telecommunication Union Ms Elvia George, Chief Finance Officer, Bank of Valletta Question and Answer Session</p>
13.30 - 13.40	<p>Ms Kim Simples Barrow - Women's Global Fund</p>
13.40 - 15.00	<p>Lunch Break</p>

15.00 - 15.20	Ms Lesley Rudd, Infant Trust & Ms Nicole Mamadi, Kids R Special Two women, living very different lives in the UK & South Africa, describe how they came to work together on a cross- Commonwealth basis to protect children from abuse.
15.20 - 16.50	THIRD PANEL SESSION – WOMEN IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT Lead Speaker - Ms Khadija Gbla, Anti-FGM Campaigner Moderator - Dr Marceline Naudi Head of Department, Gender Studies, University of Malta
	Panel Topics and Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Women and Education - Dr Winsome Gordon, CEO, Jamaica Teaching Council Ms Jude Kelly, Founder, Women of the World Festival ✿ Women and Health - Prof Robinson Mbu, Ministry of Public Health, Cameroon Dr Felicity Daly, Executive Director, Kaleidoscope Trust ✿ Women in Social Enterprise - Ms Christine Wilson, Head of Research & Empowerment, British Council Dr Lena Wilson, Chief Executive, Scottish Enterprise
	Question and Answer Session
19.00	Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony Fort St. Elmo, Valletta

DAY TWO – 24th November 2015

8.30 - 09.00	<i>Opening Speech by</i> Mrs Michelle Muscat , Spouse of the Prime Minister of Malta
Parallel Group Workshops focusing on Thematic Programme Areas to take forward into the CHOGM Communique as mandates for the Commonwealth (Participants will be given the option to select a workshop in which to participate).	
9.00 - 13.00	PARALLEL WORKSHOPS
Group 1	Women's Political Empowerment - (CPA-UK, CLGF, GS-ComSec) Moderator – The Hon Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury , Speaker of Parliament, Bangladesh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Fiona Mactaggart, Member of Parliament, UK Ms Reneé Laiviera, Commissioner & Acting Exec. Director, National Commission for the Promotion of Equality Malta Ms Alison Zerafa, Mayor of Cospicua, Malta Prof Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand
Group 2	Child/Early and Forced Marriage - (HRUnit-CS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Josephine Ojiambo, Deputy Secretary General (Political), Commonwealth Secretariat Dr Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, African Union Goodwill Ambassador for Ending Child Marriage Dr Hina Jilani, Member of the Elders Group formed by Nelson Mandela The Hon Prof Nkandu Lou, Minister of Gender & Child Development, Zambia Dr Karen McKenzie, Head of Human Rights, Commonwealth Secretariat

Group 3 Group 4 Group 5 13.00 – 14.30 14.30 – 16.00 16.00 – 16.15 16.15 – 17.00 17.00 - 18.00	<p>Women and Enterprise Development - (GS-ComSec) Moderator – Dr JosAnn Cutajar, Senior Lecturer, Gender Studies, University of Malta</p> <p>Ms Candace Johnson, Founder, Global Board Ready Women, France Ms Deborah Leary OBE, CEO, Forensic Pathways, UK Dr Medha Purao Samant, Chairperson, Annapurna Pariwar, India Ms Alison Hill, Chief Executive Officer, Argus Insurance, Bahamas Dr Margo Thomas, International Investment Consultant, USA Ms Freda Miriklis, Co-Chair, Commonwealth Business Women Network, Australia</p> <p>Gender and Youth Leadership - (RCS and Youth Affairs Division, CS)</p> <p>Ms Katherine Ellis, Director, Youth Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat Ms Kim Simplis Barrow, Belize Special Envoy for Children and Women Ms Sarah Soysa, Coordinator, Commonwealth Youth Gender & Equality Network Ms Vivian Adhiambo, Youth Leader, UN Women Mr Jacob Thomas, Member, Commonwealth Youth Gender & Equality Network Mr Jude Thaddeus Njikem, President, Organisation of African Youth, Cameroon</p> <p>Gender and Education - (ACU and COL) Moderator – Mr George Borg, DG, Directorate Educational Services, Malta</p> <p>Prof Asha Kanwar, President & CEO of COL, Canada Mr Kodhandaraman Balasubramanian, COL Education Specialist, Canada Ms Dorothy Gordon, DG, Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT Prof Louise Morley, Professor of Education, University of Sussex, UK Prof Maithree Wickramasinghe, Senior Lecturer, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka Ms Evelina Vardanyan, Programme Officer, ACU, UK</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Plenary Session Moderator – Dr Marceline Naudi, Head of Department, Gender Studies, University of Malta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Report Back from Groups ✿ Drafting Committee Meeting finalise Women's Forum Outcome Document <p>Tea/Coffee Break</p> <p>Plenary Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Presentation Women's Forum Outcome to Participants ✿ Discussions <p>Closing Ceremony The Hon Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs & Civil Liberties, Malta</p>
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This programme is subject to change



Contributing Partners

ACU - Association of Commonwealth Universities

CAPAM - CW Association of Public Administration and Management

CBWN - Commonwealth Business Women's Network

CLGF - Commonwealth Local Government Forum

CEIC - Commonwealth Enterprise and Institute Council

CMJA - Commonwealth Magistrate and Judges Association

CF - Commonwealth Foundation

COL - Commonwealth of Learning

CPA - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, United Kingdom

CS/ComSec - Commonwealth Secretariat, London

GS - Gender Section

Government of Canada

HEU - Health and Education Unit, Commonwealth Secretariat

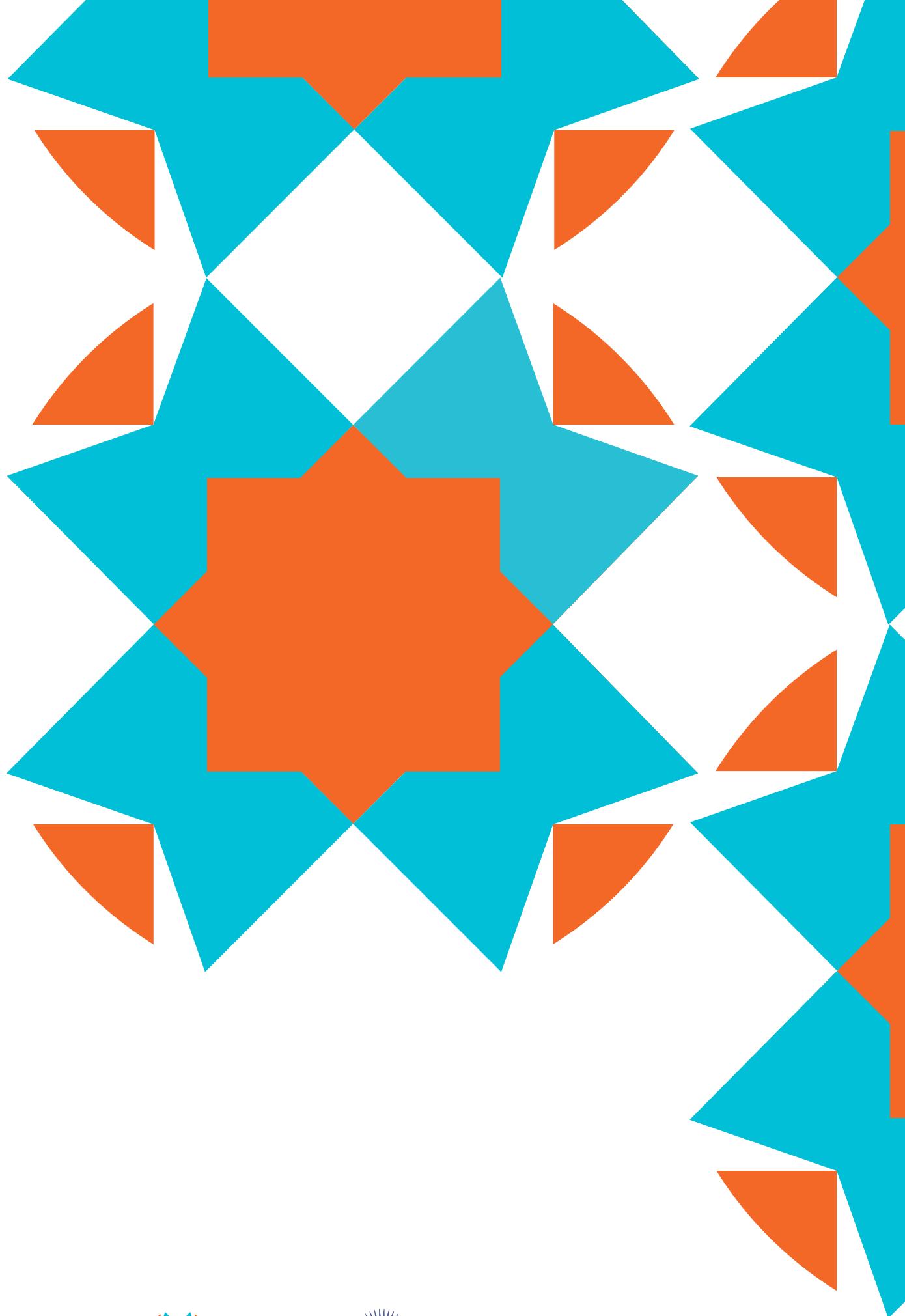
HRU - Human Rights Unit, Commonwealth Secretariat

RCS - Royal Commonwealth Society

Public Alliance - Commonwealth Public Broadcasters

World Bank

YD - Youth Division, Commonwealth Secretariat



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