



# LONDON, UK

## 16 – 18 APRIL 2018

### AN EMPOWERED FUTURE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Monday 16 April 2018

Day One: Leadership and Empowerment

0800

**Registration**

0900-1030

**Upholding the SDGs**

*The role of the Commonwealth in achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.*

**Opening session**

1030-1100

**Networking Break**

1100-1230

**Women in Leadership**

*Demonstrating the positive impact of women in leadership, and strategizing on how we can increase the role of women in leadership across the political, public and private spheres?*

**Panel event**

1230-1330

**Networking Lunch**

1330-1500

**Promoting women's mediation across the Commonwealth**

*Increasing women's participation in peace processes - Women's mediation efforts across the Commonwealth: the challenges, the opportunities and what we can learn from success stories across the Commonwealth to inform future practice.*

**Panel event**

1500-1530

**Networking Break**

1530-1700

**Leadership and Empowerment: Parallel Sessions**

**Parallel sessions**

***Women's roles in preventing and countering violent extremism and mediating in volatile environments***

***Women's Political Participation at All Levels***

***Violence Against Women in Elections***

1700

**End of sessions**

1800

**Welcome to the UK**

An exciting and interactive evening celebrating the very best of music, creativity, technology and innovation from across the UK. Bringing together delegates from the Business, People's, Women's and Youth Forums.

**Evening Reception**



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Tuesday 17 April 2018

Day Two: The Road to Empowerment

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0800      **Registration**

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0930-1100      **Towards a Common Future** **Joint-Forums  
plenary**  
*What should the Commonwealth of the future look like? How, by sharing insights, expertise and resources across business, civil society and governments can we deliver a fairer, more prosperous, secure and sustainable future for everyone in the Commonwealth?*

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1100-1130      **Networking Break**

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1130-1300      **Educate to Empower** **Plenary**  
*Making equitable and quality primary and secondary education a reality for girls across the Commonwealth.*

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1300-1400      **Networking Lunch**  
*With delegates from the Business, People's and Youth Forums.*

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1400-1530      **Diversity and Women's Economic Empowerment** **Plenary**  
*What are the opportunities presented by global trade and how can we ensure women can utilise such benefits to grow their businesses? Jointly managed with Commonwealth Business Forum.*

1530-1540      *Launch: "Understanding the Investment Potential of the Commonwealth Diaspora".*

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1530-1600      **Networking Break**

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1600-1700      **The Environment That Empowers: Parallel Sessions** **Parallel  
sessions**

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<b>Getting the policy environment right for women's economic empowerment</b>	<b>What works with business to progress inclusive economic empowerment?</b> <i>Jointly managed with Commonwealth Business Forum</i>	<b>Enabling women's access to assets</b>
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1700      **End of sessions**

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Wednesday 18 April 2018

Day Three: Empowerment in the community

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0800      **Registration**

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0930-1100      **Overcoming barriers: Violence Against Women and Girls**      *Plenary*  
*Assessing emerging evidence, how can we reduce global rates of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and share best practices from the Commonwealth. The session will have a particular focus on intimate partner violence, as the most widespread form of VAWG.*

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1100-1130      *Networking Break*

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1130-1330      **Addressing barriers to empowerment in the Community**      *Parallel sessions*

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*Eliminating harmful practices:  
Child and Early Forced  
Marriage and Female Genital  
Mutilation.*

*Sexual and Reproductive  
Health and Rights*

*Eradicating forms of  
exploitation: Tackling human  
trafficking & child exploitation  
across the Commonwealth*

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1330-1430      *Networking Lunch*

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1430-1700      **Outcomes of the Commonwealth Women's Forum**      *Outcome discussion*  
*This session will review the conclusions of the three days' forum to define and discuss the Outcome Statement of the Commonwealth Women's Forum 2018.*

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1700      **Close**

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