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# **THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT**



**The Commonwealth**

**Dr Tres-Ann Kremer, Head of Good Offices for Peace and  
Political Adviser for the Caribbean Region  
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# Commonwealth Secretariat

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The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of independent and equal sovereign states. Its members are bound together by respect for all states and peoples; by shared values and principles; and by concern for the vulnerable.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is pleased to:

- ✓ Have **supported the creation of the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWiL)** organisation in 2003.
  - ✓ The Secretariat **remains committed to supporting CIWiL and will continue to support the strengthening of its capacity** including through our many South-South exchanges and engagements with national mechanisms and regional mechanisms.
  - ✓ Have hosted the **Caribbean Regional Women's Colloquium on Women Leaders as Agents of Change in 2011** – the joint declaration from that forum under the auspices of the then Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, was a key moment in Caribbean activism and was instrumental in influencing subsequent legislative and incremental regional norm changes.
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# Commonwealth Focus

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## Commonwealth support in the Commonwealth Caribbean

1. Improving electoral processes and institutions through inclusive and constructive dialogue and improved women's political participation, leadership and political representation. Dr Tres-Ann Kremer, Head of Good Offices for Peace and Political Adviser Caribbean- [t.kremer@commonwealth.int](mailto:t.kremer@commonwealth.int)
  2. Economic Cost of Violence against Women and Girls - led by the Gender Unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat. Amelia Kinahoi Siamomua, Head of Unit - [a.siamomua@commonwealth.int](mailto:a.siamomua@commonwealth.int)
  3. Judicial Bench Books on Violence Against Women and Girls support from the Commonwealth Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform - led by the Human Rights and Rule of Law Units at the Commonwealth Secretariat - led by the Human Rights Unit and the Rule of Law Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat. Head of Human Rights - Karen McKenzie, [k.mckenzie@commonwealth.int](mailto:k.mckenzie@commonwealth.int)  
Head of the Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform - Stephen Malby, [s.malby@commonwealth.int](mailto:s.malby@commonwealth.int)
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# Partnerships

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- **Member states and Commonwealth Accredited Organisations:** Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC), Commonwealth Youth and Peace Network (CYPAN), Commonwealth Judges and Magistrates Association (CJMA).
  - CARICOM, CIWil, UN Women, UNOSSC, ParlAmericas.
  - The upcoming **2019 Commonwealth Women's Affairs Meeting** which will be hosted by Kenya in September 2019.
  - **Commonwealth Ministerial Meetings** such as Health/Education/Trade/Finance/Youth/Law/Small States - Resilience and Vulnerability (including work on the Commonwealth Blue Charter agreed by Commonwealth Heads)
  - Deepening support to the objectives of the Commonwealth Caribbean. In September 2018, **the Commonwealth Secretariat welcomed and opened the doors of the Commonwealth Small States Office in New York to also host the CARICOM UN Office.**
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