



Commonwealth
Foundation

SEVENTH COMMONWEALTH WOMEN'S AFFAIRS MINISTERS MEETING

PARTNERS' FORUM

28 MAY - 3 JUNE, 2004

The Commonwealth Partners' Forum for the WAMM will take place on the same site as the WAMM. Ministers and officials are invited to attend the events which are being co-ordinated by the Commonwealth Foundation, with the help of the National Council of Women, Fiji. The Forum will bring together representatives of over 100 CSOs from around the Commonwealth, as well as magistrates and judges, parliamentarians, business women and donors interested in working on various aspects of the proposed Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality.

The schedule of events is attached, along with the contact details of those responsible for the meetings. It is hoped that ministers and officials will be able to organise their travel to be able to participate in some of those events that take place before the WAMM begin. Some events will take place during the WAMM.

Many participants from the Partners' Forum will also be participating in the working sessions of the WAMM and in the civil society dialogue, where it is expected that their experiences and the results of their meetings will enrich the discussions and form the basis for future partnerships and collaboration.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Commonwealth Civil Society Meeting

29 to 30 May, Sheraton Royal Denarau Resort

The Civil Society Meeting is the culmination of a year-long consultation of CSOs in the Commonwealth to discuss the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality. Civil society representatives from around the Commonwealth working on gender and women's issues will focus on the four themes outlined in the Plan of Action: democracy, peace and good governance; gender and human rights; gender and HIV/AIDS; and women's economic empowerment. In particular, participants will identify ways to strengthen partnerships between governments, civil society organisations and donors in the implementation of gender policy. At the Civil Society Meeting, and later at the WAMM, participants will have the opportunity to:

- ? exchange experiences with other civil society organisations working on gender issues in the Commonwealth;
- ? engage directly with Commonwealth Ministers for Women's Affairs and with senior officials;
- ? have input to the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005 – 2015 and plans for its implementation.

For more information please contact

Katie Tiller
Commonwealth Foundation
Marlborough House
London SW1Y 5HY
Tel +44 20 7747 6853
Fax +44 20 7839 8157
Email tillerk@commonwealth.int

Commonwealth Magistrates & Judges Association and Commonwealth Lawyers' Association

Workshop on Gender and Human Rights

28 to 29 May, Tanoa Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

The Workshop will cover the role of lawyers and judges in the promotion of human rights in particular gender based violence, HIV/AIDS, the protection of girl-children, the particular problems faced by indigenous people and the cultural and socio-economic issues of gender and human rights.

The objective is to consider a Draft Gender and Human Rights Toolkit and consider recommendations emanating from the Workshop for inclusion in this Toolkit which in turn will be used by paralegals, lawyers, and judicial officers. By formulating this Commonwealth Gender Toolkit, this will provide all judicial and legal officers in the Commonwealth with the knowledge they need to effectively combat this problem.

For more information please contact:

Karen Brewer
CMJA
Uganda House
58-59 Trafalgar Square
London WC2N 5DX, UK
Tel: (44) 207 976 1007
Fax: (44) 207 976 2395
Email: cmja@btinternet.com

or
Claire Martin
Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA)
Institute of Commonwealth Studies
28 Russell Square
London WC1B 5DS, UK
Tel: (44) 20 7862 8824
Fax: (44) 20 7862 8816
Email: cla@sas.ac.uk

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Workshop

Women, Development and Democracy

28 to 29 May, Parliament Buildings, Suva

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- ? Exchange experiences and good practices of women's participation in processes of democratic decision-making
- ? Increase understanding of gender, democracy and development within the Commonwealth framework
- ? Define and analyse critical issues related to gender, democracy and development and propose concrete proposals for improvement
- ? Submit recommendations and proposals to Ministers attending the 7WAMM and provide parliamentary input into the development of the Plan of Action 2005-2015

For more information please contact:

Meenakshi Dhar
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Suite 700, Westminster House
7 Millbank
London SW1P 3JA
Tel: 020 7799 1460/7219 4666
Fax: 020 7222 6073
E-mail: hq.sec@cpahq.org

Commonwealth Business Women's Network Workshop
The Role of Women Entrepreneurs in Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment: Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
30 May, Sheraton Royal Denarau Resort

The purpose of the meeting is to create synergies between the work being done by women in decision-making and civil society; to provide a platform for discussion and debate by stakeholders on importance of public / private sector partnerships towards meeting the MDGs; and to provide a platform for networking and creating linkages and sharing best practice amongst women entrepreneurs.

For more information please contact:

Sudha Singh
Enterprise Development
Commonwealth Business Council
18 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5LU
Tel: 44 020 7024 8238
Sudha.singh@cbcglobalink.org

UNIFEM Pacific & UNDP
Donors' Meeting
Monday 31 May, Sheraton Royal Denarau Resort

For more information please contact:

Amelia Kinahoi Siamomua
Regional Programme Director
UNIFEM
Pacific Regional Office
Suva
FIJI
amelia@unifempacific.com