



BGIPU ACTIVITY – MARCH 2020 TO MARCH 2021

Below is a list of BGIPU hosted virtual activity and virtual events hosted by the IPU during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic when Team BGIPU were all working from home.

Bilateral Work

- 8 June – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Sweden**
- 18 June – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Norway**
- 25 June – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Italy**
- 2 July – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Colombia**
- 13 July – bilateral between **Mr Speaker and the Mexican Speaker**, Laura Angélica Rojas Hernández
- 23 July – bilateral meeting for our Chair with the **Head of the French IPU Group** Mr Hubert Julien-Laferrière
- 16 September – bilateral for our Chair with the **Head of the Israeli IPU Group** Mr Avi Dichter
- 9 October – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Germany**
- 22 October – bilateral meeting with a delegation from the **Republic of Korea**
- 22 October – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Nicaragua**
- 26 October – bilateral meeting between the Chair and Mr Pacheco from **Portugal**
- 27 October – bilateral meeting between Chair and Ms Atallahjan from **Canada**
- 3 November – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Tunisia**
- 16 November – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Israel**
- 23 November – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Croatia**
- 15 December – bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Uzbekistan**
- 28 January - bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Chile**
- 11 February - bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Belgium**
- 17 February - bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Lithuania**
- 24 February - bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Switzerland**
- 11 March - bilateral meeting with a delegation from **Denmark**

Multilateral and Conferences

- 15 July - **Parliamentary Forum at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on sustainable development**
- 19/20 August – **World Speakers Conference**
- 28 Sep, 6, 19, 26 Oct and 15 Feb - Meetings of the **12+ Group (the European geopolitical Group within the IPU)**
- 1-4 November – **virtual session of the IPU Governing Council**
- 17-18 February – **virtual Parliamentary Hearing at the UN**

Multilateral Webinars

- 28/04/2020 - Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic: Parliamentary action to reduce risks, strengthen emergency preparedness and increase resilience
- 09/07/2020 - Building back better: Lessons from the pandemic to enhance the role of parliaments in disaster risk reduction
- 28/07/2020 - For Asia-Pacific Region Parliaments: Impact of COVID-19 on SDG implementation in Asia-Pacific: What role for parliaments?
- 20/10/2020 - Briefing for MPs on UN processes: SDG 1 and the UN definition of poverty
- 17/11/2020 - Universal health coverage in times of COVID-19 – Parliamentary best practices and challenges
- 18/11/2020 - Briefing for MPs on UN processes 2: Reviewing UN peacebuilding

03/12/2020 - Global post-COVID-19 economy: sustainable trade policies to support the fight against poverty
08/12/2020 - Measuring inclusive decision making: Using administrative data to measure representation in the legislature, public service and the judiciary
11/12/2020 - Climate change adaptation in mountain areas: What role is there for parliamentarians?
20/01/2021 - Briefing for MPs on UN processes 3: Reforming the Security Council: When?
25/02/2021 - Parliamentary action to end statelessness
09/03/2021 - Impact of COVID-19 on SDG implementation in the UNECE region: What role for parliaments?
16/03/2021 - "Building a better future where nobody is left behind: How can parliaments ensure that COVID-19 recovery strategies are in line with the SDGs?"
17/03/2021 - "Building bridges between science and parliamentarians for the good of society"

Partnered and themed Events

18 June – BGIPU/BBC/Human Rights APPG film preview discussion **'Welcome to Chechnya; The Gay Purge'**
19 June – BGIPU/MSF/ICRC event on **'the increased risks from COVID on Refugee and Migrant populations'**
3 July – BGIPU/John Smith Trust discussion with **Alumni from Georgia**
9 July – BGIPU/ICRC event on **'The Impact of COVID-19 on existing conflict areas in Africa'** with presentations by our Ambassadors in **Somalia, DRC and Cameroon**
15 July – BGIPU/John Smith Trust event with **Alumni from Armenia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.**
16 July – BGIPU/FCDO briefing by British Embassies in **Austria, Italy and Sweden**
20 July – BGIPU/BBC World Service event to announce the **BBC WS's global audience figures**
20 July – BGIPU/FCDO briefing by our **Ambassador in the Republic of Korea**
8 September – BGIPU briefing for peers by global IT Experts on **Parliamentary IT responses to COVID-19**
15 September – For **International Day of Democracy** BGIPU discussion on the State of Democracy Globally
17 September – BGIPU/FCDO/Canning House briefing with **British Ambassadors to Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, and Costa Rica and Nicaragua**
25 September – BGIPU/FCDO briefing by our **Ambassadors in Indonesia and Japan**
29 September – BGIPU/FCDO briefing with **British Ambassadors to Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Djibouti**
1 October – BGIPU/John Smith Trust discussion between Members and JST Alumni from across **Central Asia**
5 October – BGIPU/BBC discussion on the **continuing harassment of BBC Persian staff and families by Iran**
29 October – BGIPU/FCDO briefing from **our Ambassadors in Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines**
9 November – BGIPU/BBC webinar on the **'Rising Influence of China in Global Media'**
17 November – BGIPU/FCDO briefing by our **Ambassador in Lebanon.**
26 November – BGIPU/ICRC briefing on the **'Humanitarian impact of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh'**
30 November – BGIPU briefing by **the Costa Rican, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Panamanian Ambassadors** in London – as well as the DHMs of **El Salvador and Guatemala**
3 December – BGIPU briefing by the **ROK and Vietnamese Ambassadors** in London
10 December – BGIPU briefing by the **DRC, Ethiopian and Gabonese Ambassadors** in London
14 December – BGIPU briefing by the **Danish and Italian Ambassadors** in London
19 January – BGIPU briefing by **Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean, Colombian and Uruguay Ambassadors** in London
28 January – BGIPU/ICRC briefing on **Nigeria**
4 February – **COP26 briefing** by Archie Young including a presentation from Italy.
8 February – BGIPU briefing by the **Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Mongolian Ambassadors** in London as well as a representative from the **Tajik** Embassy
10 February – BGIPU briefing by the **French Ambassador and German DHM.**
23 February – Briefing by **HMA Venezuela**
26 February – BGIPU/PHRG/CHRP event on HR in the **Philippines.**
4 March - BGIPU/John Smith Trust discussion with Alumni in **Belarus** (plus HMA Belarus)
4 March – BGIPU/MSF/ICRC briefing on **Tigray**
9 March – BGIPU/PNND/Future Generations APPG event on **disarmament**
9 March – BGIPU/Women in Parliament APPG **International Women's Day event**
11 March – Briefing by HMAs in **Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE** – with **Kuwait DHM** in attendance

In summary

In the financial year 2020/2021 BGIPU achieved the following:

Across the whole year BGIPU events were attended by a total audience of **750 members**.

Bilateral meetings with **19 Parliaments** allowing UK Members to engage with **86 counterpart parliamentarians**.

Briefings by our Ambassadors (or in a few cases a representative) in **31 countries**.

Briefings by Ambassadors (or in a few cases a representative) to the court of St James from **24 countries**.

Themed briefings with **10 partner organisations** on issues affecting **59 countries**.

Active participation in the **8 key IPU meetings** during the year, plus attendance at the **14 IPU hosted webinars**.

The BGIPU Executive Committee and its sub-committees and the Secretariat met virtually on **10** occasions.

In total over **400 Zoom calls** were hosted by the BGIPU Secretariat account in the 12 month period.