



BGIPU Delegates at the 144th IPU Assembly  
in Nusa Dua



Ukrainian Delegation meeting the Home  
Affairs Committee



BGIPU Delegation to Republic of Korea visit  
the World Taekwondo Headquarters



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# BRITISH GROUP IPU



**"Advancing the  
parliamentary  
dimension of Britain's  
foreign relations"**

## THE BRITISH GROUP & THE IPU

**British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union** (BGIPU) is the official national group representing the UK Parliament in the **Inter-Parliamentary Union** (IPU). BGIPU's membership comprises all sitting members of both Houses of the UK Parliament, across all political parties and the cross-benches of the Palace of Westminster.

Founded in 1889 by MPs from the UK and France, the IPU is the world's oldest multilateral political body. For more than a century it has been the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue, fostering contacts between parliamentarians on questions of collective international concern. The IPU seeks to **unite MPs globally** to encourage collective parliamentary action for a more **peaceful and prosperous world, advancing democratic norms and institutions** and **defending the rule of law and human rights**.

BGIPU is led by a Chair elected annually from among its membership, along with three Vice-Chairs and a Treasurer as part of a 30-member Executive Committee supported by a permanent Secretariat fully funded by both Houses of Parliament. BGIPU coordinates an active and varied programme of **bilateral inter-parliamentary exchanges** with other IPU member parliaments worldwide with the primary aim of **advancing the parliamentary dimension of Britain's foreign relations**.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE BGIPU

The BGIPU's aims to service Britain's and the UK Parliament's interests through **advancing the parliamentary dimension of Britain's foreign relations**.

- **IPU Conferences and activities**  
Sends delegates to International meetings on key global matters, including global meetings of the WTO Conferences & the UN Commission on the Status of Women.
- **Overseas Delegations**  
Coordinates Bilateral exchanges between members of the UK Parliament and other national Parliaments with the objective of increasing understanding and cooperation between both countries.
- **Welcoming Parliamentarians to Westminster**  
Arranges formal bilateral exchanges in the United Kingdom with members of Parliament from IPU member states.
- **Seminars and Conferences**  
Convenes seminars, conferences and lectures for UK Parliamentarians, foreign Parliamentarians and key parliamentary stakeholders on issues of current interest.
- **All Party Parliamentary Groups**  
Supports and promotes affiliated All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs)

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE BGIPU

Members of either House of the UK Parliament are automatically members of the BGIPU and eligible to participate in its activities.

### BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- **Expand understanding** of global issues on key multilateral and bilateral issues
- **Advance the key role** that parliamentarians play in international affairs through the IPU
- **Support inward parliamentary visits** to promote best practice in parliamentary processes and a better understanding of Britain's interests
- **Join outward delegations** to advance Britain's bilateral interests with international counterparts
- **Represent the British Group** at IPU Assemblies and participate in specialist international IPU conferences in the UK and abroad
- **Develop better understanding** of cross-cutting issues such as sustainable development, gender equality, human rights, conflict resolution and climate change on the global agenda