



The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC

Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, who took office as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth in April 2016, serves the 54 governments and 2.4 billion people of the Commonwealth.

Born in Dominica, she moved to the UK at an early age and was brought up in a large close-knit Caribbean family where she was taught the importance of hard work, education, pride in her heritage and the obligation to give back to the region of her birth and to the society in which she was raised. This ethic has guided her throughout her dynamic career in law, public service and politics.

A lawyer by profession, she became the first black and youngest woman ever to be appointed Queen's Counsel. She is the only woman since the post was created in 1315 to be Attorney General for England and Wales and was also Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

Appointed to the House of Lords as Baroness Scotland of Asthal in 1997, she has been Alderman for Bishopsgate Ward in the City of London since 2015.

About the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth is a family of 54 independent sovereign states, and home to 2.4 billion people. Building on the Commonwealth Advantage of shared inheritances, and similarities of law and administration, its members are committed to creating a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for all.

The people and institutions of the Commonwealth work together through a broad range of intergovernmental, civil society, cultural and professional organisations committed to the shared values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter that cherish equality of opportunity and celebrate diversity.

The Commonwealth Secretariat works alongside member countries to promote democracy and good governance. Justice, with respect for human rights under rule of law, is understood as the foundation both for economic development with sustainable growth, trade and investment, and for inclusive social progress – particularly through the empowerment of women and youth.