



**The Commonwealth Conversation**  
HOSTED BY THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

**YouGov**<sup>®</sup>



## **Results from Commonwealth polls**

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## BACKGROUND

The survey results presented in this document form part of 'The Commonwealth Conversation' being conducted by the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS). More information about the Commonwealth Conversation can be found at <http://www.thecommonwealthconversation.org>

## METHODOLOGY

**Australia:** The survey was carried out online by YouGov Plc. Fieldwork took place between 26 June 2009 and 2 July 2009. Sample size was 1020.

**Canada:** The survey was carried out online by YouGov Plc. Fieldwork took place between 1 July 2009 and 7 July 2009. Sample size was 1020.

**Great Britain:** The survey was carried out online by YouGov Plc. Fieldwork took place between 2 March 2009 and 4 March 2009. Sample size was 2119.

**India:** The survey was carried out online by YouGov Plc. Fieldwork took place between 26 June 2009 and 3 July 2009. Sample size was 520.

**Jamaica:** The survey was carried out over the telephone by Hope Enterprises Ltd. Fieldwork took place between 29 June 2009 and 10 July 2009. Sample size was 500.

**Malaysia:** The survey was carried out online by YouGov Plc. Fieldwork took place between 1 July 2009 and 13 July 2009. Sample size was 514.

**South Africa:** The survey was carried out online by YouGov Plc. Fieldwork took place between 2 July 2009 and 8 July 2009. Sample size was 510.

**All surveys were sampled and weighted to be representative of the adult population of each country. However, all results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to statistical errors normally associated with sample-based information.**

## CONTACTS

For more details on the Commonwealth Conversation, please contact Zoë Ware at the Royal Commonwealth Society on +44 (0)20 7766 9240, [zoe.ware@thercs.org](mailto:zoe.ware@thercs.org) or 25 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5AP, United Kingdom.

For more details about the YouGov surveys please contact (+44)(0)20 7 012 6000 or email [enquiries@yougov.com](mailto:enquiries@yougov.com) quoting the survey details.

For more details about the Jamaican survey, please contact Hope Enterprises Ltd on (+1) 876 968 7859 or [maxwed@cwjamaica.com](mailto:maxwed@cwjamaica.com).

# Commonwealth Conversation Poll Results



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Sample Size: 6203 Adults

Fieldwork: Various dates

	Country						
	Australia	Canada	Great Britain	India	Jamaica	Malaysia	South Africa
<b>Weighted Sample</b>	1020	1020	2119	520	500	514	510
Unweighted Sample	1020	1020	2119	520	500	514	510
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Average		
Aus, Can & GB	Ind, Jam, Mal & SA	All

Which, if any of these international organisations do you think are valuable to [your country]? By valuable we mean any monetary, defence reasons etc...

The United Nations (UN)	64	68	42	74	30	60	71	58	59	58
The 'G8' group of major world economies	-	54	35	55	-	-	50	-	-	-
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	-	57	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>The Commonwealth</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>
The European Union (EU)	-	-	37	25	10	-	-	-	-	-
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	-	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-
The Group of Twenty 'G20'	40	33	-	33	-	-	27	-	-	-
Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)	61	-	-	-	-	63	-	-	-	-
The African Union (AU)	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	-
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	-
Organisation of American States (OAS)	-	19	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
South Pacific Forum	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Group of 77 (G77)	-	-	-	14	3	19	6	-	-	-
Organisation of Islamic Conference	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	-	-
None of these	5	6	13	3	1	4	4	8	3	5
Don't know	11	13	17	3	9	9	9	14	7	10

Which ONE of the following is the MOST important to [your country]?

Europe	3	8	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>The Commonwealth</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>
America	25	63	32	32	42	19	25	40	30	34
Pacific	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asia	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Asia	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
South East Asia	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	-	-	-
Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-
Caribbean	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	8	14	19	3	2	6	8	14	5	9

	Country						
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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Average		
Aus, Can & GB	Ind, Jam, Mal & SA	All

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, who leads the Commonwealth Secretariat, is currently Kamalesh Sharma. Which ONE of the following do you think is currently head of the Commonwealth overall?

The Queen	84	61	70	42	50	27	42	72	40	54
Nelson Mandela	1	0	0	4	4	6	2	0	4	2
President Obama	1	2	1	9	25	11	3	1	12	7
Kofi Annan	2	2	6	10	1	7	13	3	8	6
Gordon Brown	1	3	1	7	1	3	7	2	4	3
Prince Charles	1	1	1	1	0	7	0	1	2	2
Bono	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Archbishop Desmond Tutu	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	1
Bill Gates	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	1
Don't know	10	30	21	25	17	37	29	21	27	24

Can you think of any activities that are undertaken by the Commonwealth?

Yes (see separate sheets)	36	21	22	46	26	48	33	26	38	33
No, I cannot	37	51	49	23	68	18	35	46	36	40
Not sure	27	27	29	30	6	34	32	27	25	26
<i>Percentage of 'Yes' listing Games or sports</i>	62	53	55	42	40	79	36	57	49	52

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Average		
Aus, Can & GB	Ind, Jam, Mal & SA	All

**If [your country] left the Commonwealth would you be . . . ?**

Delighted	9	5	2	4	5	4	1	5	4	4
Fairly pleased	10	5	2	7	11	3	2	6	6	6
Sorry	25	24	24	53	30	26	35	24	36	31
Appalled	10	14	18	11	12	43	17	14	21	18
Wouldn't mind one way or the other	38	32	37	20	29	18	34	36	25	30
Don't know	8	21	18	4	14	5	11	15	9	11

**Queen Elizabeth II was freely chosen by Commonwealth leaders to be the Head of the Commonwealth in 1952. However when the Queen dies, the position of Head will not automatically pass to her successor. Who do you think the next Head of the Commonwealth should be?**

Nelson Mandela	2	2	-	8	5	3	4	-	5	-
Prince Charles	27	21	-	15	7	15	15	-	13	-
President Obama	2	3	-	8	29	6	9	-	13	-
Archbishop Desmond Tutu	0	1	-	0	1	0	5	-	2	-
Prince William	22	15	-	5	2	9	14	-	7	-
Kofi Annan	1	1	-	6	1	3	5	-	4	-
There shouldn't be a Head	10	8	-	2	6	5	5	-	4	-
The Head should rotate between all member countries	23	29	-	50	42	49	37	-	44	-
Don't know	13	20	-	6	8	10	6	-	7	-