



## The Queen's Young Leaders programme

On Wednesday 9 July at a unique reception at Buckingham Palace, their Royal Highnesses The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Henry of Wales, launched the search for [The Queen's Young Leaders](#).

Exceptional young people from across the Commonwealth will be recognised for their achievements in transforming their own lives and the lives of others, receiving support, training and an award from Her Majesty The Queen.

Nominations and applications are sought from each of the 53 Commonwealth countries... [#TheSearchIsOn](#)



## Girl Summit

On 22nd July the UK government and UNICEF will hold the Girl Summit, which will bring together women, girls and community leaders from the UK and overseas, alongside governments, international organisations, faith leaders, civil society organisations and the private sector to commit to action to end female genital mutilation and child marriage within a generation. The RCS looks forward to engaging with this event, but cautions that female genital mutilation / cutting and child marriage are not the cause of gender inequality, but a consequence of it. In our [latest blog](#), we argue that for girls to truly be able to live free from violence and discrimination and achieve their potential, we must tackle the root causes of gender inequality – changing both legislation and social norms.

## RCS Condemns Assaults on Press Freedom

On Monday 23rd June, the world was shocked by an Egyptian court's decision to hand down substantial jail terms to three

## Commonwealth Games

The XX Commonwealth Games in Glasgow are around the corner! The RCS is working with partners on a range of activities around the Games, including:

[33Fifty: The Commonwealth Youth Leadership Programme](#)

[Reception to Celebrate the Opening Ceremony](#) at the Royal Over-seas League in London

[Conference on 'Sport as Persuasion and Power in the Modern World'](#) in Glasgow, with the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Cultural Relations

## UN Human Rights Council

On 23rd June, The RCS attended the 26th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which held its first ever panel

Al Jazeera journalists detained in the country.

The worrying clampdown on the media in Egypt reflects the danger that journalists face in delivering news and debate around the world. As all Commonwealth countries have voluntarily committed themselves to 'peaceful, open dialogue and the free flow of information, including through a free and responsible media' through Article V of the Commonwealth Charter, this is an issue of which Commonwealth governments must take note.

Read our [recent blog](#) on the Al Jazeera verdicts and press freedom in the Commonwealth.

discussion on the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage. Ending child marriage is a campaign that the RCS has worked on since 2010, and we celebrate the ground that this issue has gained in that time. This event will be followed by another panel discussion at the UN General Assembly in New York, in September this year. The aim is to ensure that ending child marriage is a priority development goal for the next 15 years, as set out in the Post-2015 agenda, which is currently being negotiated. Child marriage is an issue across the Commonwealth, and the number of child brides in many Commonwealth countries is very high. You can see details for this issue in the recent RCS report: [Hidden Violence in the Commonwealth](#).



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