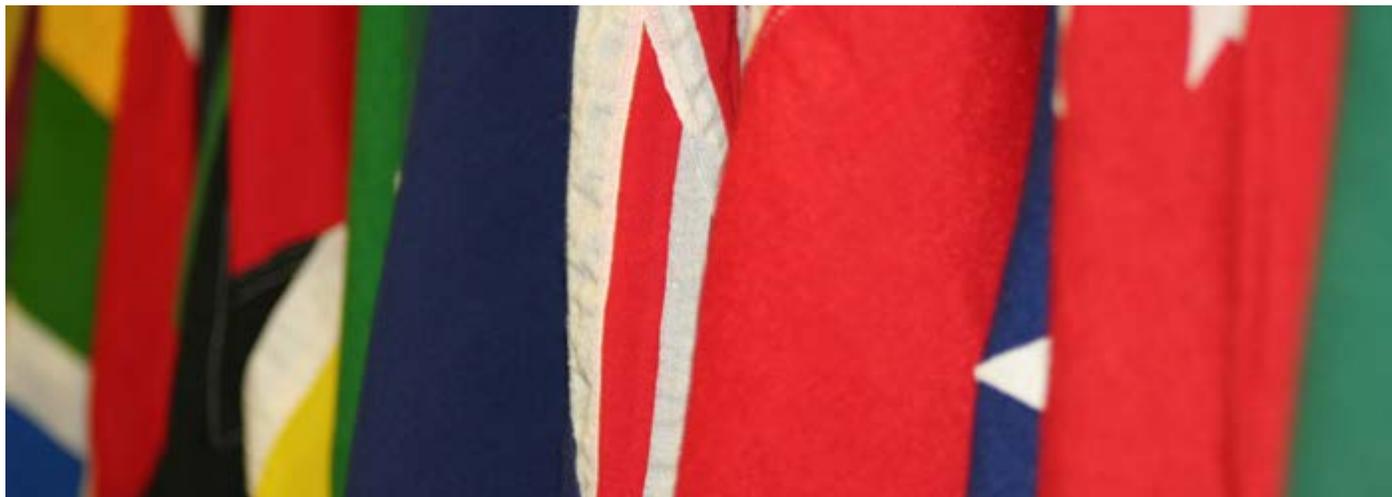




THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY



Commonwealth VOICES is launched

Containing observations on Commonwealth-wide news and developments, high-profile guest contributions, research pieces and contemporary essays, the new RCS magazine ***Commonwealth Voices*** is now available to read or download on the [RCS website](#).

UK based RCS [Supporters](#) for whom we have postal addresses, should have received a print copy by post. Please [email](#) us with any queries.

International Civil Society Week

Last month was international civil society week. The Commonwealth is fortunate to have a vibrant civil society that is able to connect through events like the Commonwealth People's Forum and using common language, communications technology and other means. The Royal Commonwealth Society is one of the largest Commonwealth civil society organisations, with branches in every region. The role, effectiveness and even the definition of civil society is something that attracts diverse views, so we decided to ask our branches what civil society means to them. You can read their responses [here](#).

Human Rights 365

December 10th marks Human Rights Day, set aside annually to mark the date on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR) in 1948. December 14th also marks the date, 64 years later, on which Commonwealth Heads of Government adopted the [Charter of the Commonwealth](#). This year, the theme of Human Rights Day is 'Human Rights 365', reflecting that whilst it is important to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the UDHR, its relevance lies in its application every day of the year, for all citizens of the world, without exception or preference. Read our [blog](#) about the importance of the day.

Winners' week

In November, the RCS welcomed the [Winners and Runners-up](#) of the Commonwealth Essay Competition 2014 to London for the winners' week programme. The four young people took part in many memorable activities, culminating in an [Awards Ceremony](#) at Buckingham Palace attended by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. This memorable week would have not been possible without our partnership with Cambridge University Press and The Queen's Trust's sponsorship. The Society is also appreciative of the kind support of The British High Commission in Pakistan, The High Commission of Canada in the UK, The British High Commission in Singapore and the British Council Association.

The Work of the RCS

The RCS is committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens everywhere through our youth and education programmes and by highlighting issues of gender equality, peace-making and sustainability throughout the Commonwealth.

As a charity, we rely on sponsorship from organisations and [donations from individuals](#) which enable us to plan our work and fund longer-term projects.

Leaving a [legacy](#) is an excellent way to help ensure the valuable work of the RCS continues well into the future.

