

**CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**



Cayman Islands

16 March 2011

**Press Release:**

**Caymanian student attends Commonwealth Day 2011 Celebrations in London**

Caymanian student Michael Lockwood attended the Commonwealth Day Celebrations held in London on Monday March 14<sup>th</sup>. Michael who is studying the Legal Practice Course at BPP Law School said he was honoured to attend the day's events organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Michael explained there were 40 young representatives from different countries of the Commonwealth in attendance and the day included tours of the Palace of Westminster, talks with the Secretary-General and other CPA staff, UK Members of Parliament, The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar MP, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and Chairperson-in-office of the Commonwealth and the Maltese High Commissioner.

Mrs. Persad-Bissessar spoke to the young representatives about her journey to premiership and said something that spoke to Michael in particular, regarding women and violence; by working together in our regions we can rid our communities of such violence and small arms dealing and continue to promote women's equality in all aspects of society.

Later that day Michael attended the Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. The Observance is a large multi-faith gathering, also attended by Heads of Government, faith leaders, dignitaries from around the world and several hundred young people. This year's theme was 'Women as Agents of Change'. After the service, Michael commented, " It was a captivating ceremony illustrating the rich culture and history of the Commonwealth as well as the importance of women in our societies; the strides that they have taken, the work still to be done shown by current statistics and what we can and should do to facilitate the continued movement".

Following a parade of the 53 flags of the Commonwealth, the Observance at Westminster Abbey featured an uplifting performance of 'Woman is Boss' by Trinidadian Calypso singer Denyse Plummer in full Carnival regalia. The Address was given by Annie Lennox OBE and Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy CBE, read her poem A Commonwealth Blessing for Girls. The Commonwealth Secretary-General, HE Kamlesh Sharma, read the Act of Affirmation to the Commonwealth and personal reflections were presented by International Economist Dr Dambisa Moyo, Marie Staunton of Plan UK and Dr Martina Roth who is responsible for Intel's Global Education Strategy, Research and Policy.

Michael reported that whilst the Cayman Islands are in a better position than many other countries, this event, the Youth Parliament and International Women's Day 2011 have all highlighted sustained

areas of concern and where we should concentrate our attention. He also added, 'This was an insightful and conversant event that I encourage future Caymanian students in the UK to attend.'

Nadira Lord from the Cayman Islands Government Office in London and Jason Lord also attended the Observance at Westminster Abbey along with the other United Kingdom Overseas Territories Representatives. Mary Chandler-Allen, Acting Representative was away on official business.

More details of the day's events can be found at [www.commonwealthday.org](http://www.commonwealthday.org)

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**Michael Lockwood, Westminster Abbey, London**

