Report by Joyce Watson AM to the CPA Wales Branch Executive Committee

**Commonwealth Women Leaders’ Summit - Roadmap to 2020**

14 July 2016

I was thrilled to attend the inaugural Commonwealth Women Leaders’ Summit in Marlborough House in July. I thank you for helping to make that happen.

This followed on from the Inaugural Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting  
(CHOGM) , Women’s Summit held in Malta in November 2015.

The summit was a huge success and welcomed women as leaders from India, The Maldives, British Columbia, New South Wales, Monserrat to name but a few of the countries represented.

The conference was opened by the Right Honourable Baroness Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary Genera, who organised the event. She is the first ever female to hold this position. She has dedicated her initial period of her appointment to taking forward three themes of women’s empowerment.

**Getting more women into elected position**

**Ending Violence against Women and girls (EVAW)**

**Women’s economic empowerment**.

It was under these specific heading that the day progressed but with an additional theme of cooperation and knowledge transfer.

Keynote speaker, Kiran Bedi, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry State in India gave a hugely inspiring speech about making a difference through collaborative working in tackling crime.

Using the three themes as described above, the conference delegates split into three working groups with each subject area being discussed and knowledge transferred about different actions and approaches being adopted according to local circumstance and need.

I opted to attend the EVAW workshop. I did speak about the Welsh Governments legislation and funding to direct change in Wales. Others spoke about their specific work.

I did suggest that 25th November, International Day to End Violence against Women, also known as White Ribbon Day, be adopted as a day of action across the Commonwealth.

I hope that this does happen to move this agenda forward.

At the end of each session each group fed back the discussions and ideas to progress the themes. This in turn has formed the 2020 Roadmap that will aid future discussion and work within the Commonwealth and each region will take action accordingly.

Roadmap to 2020

This includes

* Promote the development and use of gender-based data disaggregation
* Promote gender-mainstreaming of government policies and issues across all government departments, including mainstreaming of gender in all Ministerial meetings
* Promote the effective utilisation of existing and emerging technologies, including online platforms and mobile phones, for raising awareness, dissemination of information, capacity building, and sharing of experiences, in a manner that promotes collaboration, builds existing proven interventions and ensures accessibility to all women.

Naturally now the challenge is for Wales to be as active in helping to deliver this as an active member of the CPA and the CWP BIMR .