

# An Inclusive Commonwealth

The Commonwealth theme for 2016

[thecommonwealth.org/inclusivecommonwealth](http://thecommonwealth.org/inclusivecommonwealth)  
[#inclusivecommonwealth](https://twitter.com/inclusivecommonwealth)



Each year the Commonwealth adopts a theme, upon which the ~Commonwealth Service is based. In 2016 the theme is 'An Inclusive Commonwealth', underlining the Commonwealth Charter values of tolerance, respect and understanding.

Announcing the theme for 2016, Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma said:

"An Inclusive Commonwealth' refers to the values of tolerance, respect and understanding, as well as equity and fairness, set out in the Commonwealth Charter, and the richness of the Commonwealth as a family of nations in which each member state is valued equally and has an equal voice. In changing times, the need for the Commonwealth to act as an inclusive network for mutual support, development and growth of opportunity and rights for all is as great as ever.

The theme for this year offers possibilities for building on work undertaken with this year's theme, 'A Young Commonwealth'. The principle of inclusiveness could be interpreted in a variety of ways, both nationally and globally, according to context. There might, for instance, be further exploration to deepen understanding of Commonwealth collaboration in fields such as gender equality and the new global Sustainable Development Goals.

We encourage public institutions, schools, civil society organisations and the media in all Commonwealth member states to consider how 'An Inclusive Commonwealth can be promoted through their activities.

It is important that the profile of the Commonwealth is raised, and understanding of the impact of our work and values advanced. Our hope is that all members of the Commonwealth family will find innovative ways of marking