



FOUR DECADES CONNECTING FREEDOM

**40th Anniversary of the
International Democrat Union
1983 – 2023**



AGENDA

TIMELINE

1983

Founding of the IDU in London

14 signatories from Europe, two from North America, two from Oceania and one from Asia



1989

Fall of the Berlin Wall
and with it the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe



1992

Founding of UPLA

Union of Latin American Parties in Cochabamba, Bolivia. First President is Andres Pastrana, Former President of Columbia



1986

Founding of the Caribbean Democrat Union

Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga is first CDU Chair; created to counter the radical political currents in the region



1990

Founding of the International Women's Democrat Union

Vienna Executive Committee, formed to support women who believe in Christian Democratic and conservative political parties



1997

Founding of the Democrat Union of Africa

Dakar, Senegal
First Chairman Alfonso; Dhlakama from Mozambique

2002

EDU merges into the European People's Party thus making EPP a regional affiliate of the IDU

2018

Stephen Harper, 22nd Prime Minister of Canada is elected new IDU Chairman in Madrid, Spain

2020

First Virtual IDU Forum



2009

Founding of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group

2019

First IDU Forum Washington D.C. and inaugural Bush-Thatcher Award for Freedom is presented to the Maldivian Democratic Party

2023

40th Anniversary of the IDU in London



IDU

The Global Alliance of the
Centre Right



WELCOME

Dear members and friends of the IDU,

"No matter how hard they try, totalitarian countries can never extinguish the flame of freedom."

This is as true now as it was when Margaret Thatcher first said it to other international leaders including George H. W. Bush, Helmut Kohl, Jacques Chirac, and Franz-Josef Strauss, on June 24th 1983, at the founding of the International Democrat Union here in London.

In an age marked by the advance of Soviet communism, the decline of Western economies, and the demoralization of democratic societies, they stood to defend and promote freedom. Within a decade, their efforts would lead to the end of the Cold War and an unprecedented spread of freedom and democracy around the world.

Our 19 founding parties have now grown to a global family of over 80, standing as the guardians of freedom and democracy on every continent. While the world has changed, our core values and the IDU's mission remain the same.

The rise of a global China with its system of state capitalism, the resurgence of an aggressive Russia and the spread of theocratic extremism, especially from Iran, are among the threats we face today. Corporatism, neo-Marxism, demagogic populism, and wokeism are undermining sound economic management in countries where our values have been dominant, challenging our freedoms, and eroding our democratic institutions.

In short, the battle must still be fought. We are here in London to celebrate 40 years of the IDU as a global bastion of freedom and to bring conservatives together to forge stronger relationships, share best practices for campaigning and governing, build bridges with parties in emerging democracies, and tackle the global challenges of our time.

I wish you all a productive and enjoyable time as we celebrate this 40th anniversary and embrace many more successful years in the fight for freedom.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Harper".

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
IDU Chairman, Conservative Party, Canada



WELCOME

Greetings to all the delegates, partners and guests of the International Democrat Union.

I am honoured to welcome you to London for this historic forum.

Forty years ago, representatives from 19 democracies came to this city to create the IDU on the principle that the global centre-right movement works best when it works together. In the decades since, the IDU has exceeded every expectation. It has grown to include over 80 parties and has become the premier venue for global centre-right parties to build connections, share best practice, and help developing democracies reach their full potential.

The Conservative Party is proud to have been part of the IDU since its founding. In the words of the IDU's co-founder, Margaret Thatcher, "each generation must stand up for democracy, it can never be taken for granted." As resurgent authoritarianism brings war back to Europe and tensions across Asia, we are reminded that the fight for freedom, democracy, and human dignity is never over. Our shared values must constantly be reinforced. By attending this forum, you have made a heroic decision to join the team best equipped to tackle the complex challenges facing our modern societies. The lessons you learn and connections you make will ensure that freedom and democracy prevail over the forces of authoritarianism both in our home nations and around the world.

On behalf of the Conservative Party, I wish IDU Chairman Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper and all the delegates a successful, productive forum. As we gather in the shadow of the Mother of Parliaments, let us be reminded that when free people work together, there is nothing that cannot be achieved.

The Right Honourable Greg Hands

Chairman of the Conservative and Unionist Party



Conservatives

AGENDA

Monday, 19th June 2023

Dress code - Business Casual

12.00 – 18.00 **Campaign Managers Meeting (IDU Campaign Managers Only)**

Conservative Campaign Headquarters
4 Matthew Parker St, London SW1H 9HQ, United Kingdom

14.00 – 16.00 **Meeting of the International Women's Democrat Union (IWDU)** **Dress code - Business Attire**

A conversation with Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, 4th and first female President of Croatia (2015-2020) and the Rt. Hon. Caroline Nokes MP, Chair of the Women and Equalities Select Committee, United Kingdom

Moderation: Anne-Elisabeth Moutet, Columnist, The Telegraph

The Carlton Club, 69 St James's St, St. James's, London SW1A 1PJ, United Kingdom

15.00 – 18.00 **Registration and Accreditation**

Church House, Westminster
Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3NZ, United Kingdom

19.00 – 21.30 **IDU Forum 2023 Welcome Reception** **Dress code - Business Attire**

Keynote Speaker:
The Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (2019-2022)

The Savile Club, 69 Brook St, London W1K 4ER, United Kingdom

Tuesday, 20th June 2023

Dress code - Business Attire

09.00 **Opening of the IDU Forum London 2023**

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, IDU Chairman and 22nd Prime Minister of Canada

The Rt. Hon. Greg Hands, MP, Conservative Party Chairman, United Kingdom

Church House, Westminster
Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3NZ, United Kingdom

09.20 – 10.00 40 Years of the IDU: Uniting Conservatives Globally

Hon. John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia (1996–2007),
IDU Chairman (2002–2014)

Lord William Hague, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom
(2010–2015), Chairman of the IDU (1997–2002)

Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr. RNC Chairman (1983–1989),
London Declaration Signatory, USA

Moderation: The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, IDU Chairman and
22nd Prime Minister of Canada

10.00 – 10.45 Strategic, Strong & Safe: Crafting a New Security Framework for the 21st Century

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, 4th President of Croatia

Petro Poroshenko, 5th President of Ukraine

Dr. Robert Seely MP, Chairman of the Ukraine and Russia Parliamentary
Groups, United Kingdom

Moderation: Anne-Elisabeth Moutet, Columnist, The Telegraph

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 – 12.00 Treading On Thin Ice: How Should Leaders Navigate Today's Economic Woes?

Erna Solberg, Former Prime Minister of Norway

Enda Kenny, 13th Taoiseach, Republic of Ireland, Patron of Worldwide
Support for Development (WSD)

Janez Janša, Former Prime Minister of Slovenia

Moderation: Lord Dean Godson, Director, Policy Exchange,
United Kingdom

12.00 – 14.00 Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies Lunch Discussion

The Future of Political Parties in Europe and the World

A conversation with Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Wilfried
Martens Centre for European Studies and Brian Loughnane, Deputy
Chairman, International Democrat Union

*The conference receives financial support from the European Parliament. Sole liability rests with
the organisers, the European Parliament is not responsible for the activity.*

AGENDA

Dress code - Business Attire

14.00 – 14.30 **A conversation with the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, IDU Chairman and H. E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, 9th President of Sri Lanka**

14.30 – 14.50 **Presentation International Property Rights Index and Trade Barrier Index, Tholos Foundation**

Lorenzo Montanari, Tholos Foundation,
Vice President of International Affairs

14.50 – 15.30 **International (Dis)order: Responding to Global Re-Alignment in Progress**

The Rt. Hon. Kemi Badenoch MP, Secretary of State for Business and Trade, United Kingdom
The Hon. Scott Morrison, 30th Prime Minister of Australia (2018–2022)
Oleksii Goncharenko, Member of Parliament, Ukraine
Andreas Hellmann, Director of Outreach, Tax and Regulatory Policy, THOLOS Foundation

Moderation: Antonia Ferrier, Vice President for External Affairs, International Republican Institute, USA

15.30 – 16.00 **A conversation with the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, IDU Chairman and Manfred Weber, MEP, Chairman of the European People's Party (EPP) and Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament (tbc)**

16.00 – 16.20 **Coffee Break**

16.20 – 16.50 **Presentation by Lord Michael Ashcroft KCMG PC, IDU Honorary Chairman:**

Rishi's Race Against Time: The Conservatives, The Voters and the Next UK Election

16.50 – 17.20 **A conversation with the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, IDU Chairman and The Rt. Hon. James Cleverly MP, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom**

17.20 – 18.30 **Bilateral Meetings**

18.30 – 19.00 Reception

Remarks:

The Rt. Hon. Liz Truss, MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (2022)

Church House, Hoare Memorial Hall, Westminster
Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3NZ, United Kingdom

19.00 Gala Dinner: 40th Anniversary of the International Democrat Union

Keynote Speaker:

Michael R. Pompeo, 70th United States Secretary of State

Leader's Panel Discussion

Moderation: Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper

IDU Chairman, 22nd Prime Minister of Canada

Presenting partners:

Worldwide Support for Development and
Lord Michael Ashcroft, KCMG PC, IDU Honorary Chairman

Church House, Assembly Hall, Westminster
Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3NZ, United Kingdom

**22.00 – 23.45 International Young Democrat Union's Late Night Session
With Nicola Richards, MP, United Kingdom**

UnHerd Club, 6 Old Queen Street, Westminster, SW1H 9HP London

Wednesday, 21st June 2023

Dress code – Business Attire

09.00 – 12.00 IDU Executive Meeting (IDU Members Only)

TAJ Hotel St. James' Court, 54 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AF,
United Kingdom

**13.00 – 15.00 Conservative Environmental Network and Klima Union Future of
Shipping Lunch on Thames River**

14.00 – 15.00 Tour of the Palace of Westminster (IDU Members Only)

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Michael R. Pompeo

70th Secretary of State of the United States

Michael R. Pompeo served as the 70th Secretary of State of the United States, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and was elected to four terms in Congress representing Kansas' 4th District.

Secretary Pompeo graduated first in his class at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1986 and served as a cavalry officer patrolling the Iron Curtain. He rose to the rank of Captain and went on to graduate from Harvard Law School. His new book, *Never Give an Inch: Fighting for the America I Love* was released on January 24th.

Before serving in Congress, he spent a decade leading two manufacturing businesses in South Central Kansas. Mike Pompeo is married to his wife, Susan - with whom he taught 5th grade Sunday school for many years - and has one son, Nick.



Hon. Tony Abbott, A.C.

28th Prime Minister of Australia

Tony Abbott was elected Prime Minister by the Australian people on September 7th 2013, serving in that role for two years.

In that time, the carbon tax and mining tax were repealed, free trade agreements were finalised with China, Japan and Korea; the people smuggling trade from Indonesia to Australia was halted and Australia became the second largest military contributor to the US-led campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq.

In 2014, and again in 2015, he spent a week running the government from a remote indigenous community.

Prior to entering parliament, he was a journalist with *The Australian*, a senior advisor to opposition leader John Hewson, and director of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy. He has degrees in economics and law from Sydney University and in politics and philosophy from Oxford which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. Since 1998, he has convened the Pollie Pedal annual charity bike ride which has raised nearly \$7 million for organizations such as Soldier On and Carers Australia. He still does surf patrols with the Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club and serves as a Deputy Captain with the Davidson Rural Fire Brigade.

Currently, he is a director of the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation, serves on the council of the Australian War Memorial, and is an advisor to the UK Board of Trade.

He is married to Margaret and they are the parents of three daughters - Louise, Frances, and Bridget.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Lord Michael Ashcroft KCMG PC

IDU Honorary Chairman

Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC is an international businessman, philanthropist, author, and pollster. He is the former Treasurer and Deputy Chairman of the UK Conservative Party, the current Honorary Chairman and former Treasurer of the International Democrat Union (IDU), and currently a Privy Council member. He was formerly the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Veterans' Transition.

He is the founder of Crimestoppers and the Ashcroft Technology Academy. He is Vice Patron of the Intelligence Corps Museum, a Trustee of the Cleveland Clinic, and Life Governor of the Royal Humane Society. He is a former Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University, and previously served as Patron of the Forces in Mind Trust Research Centre, Trustee of Imperial War Museums, and President of the West India Committee.

As well as donating tens of millions of pounds to good causes, he signed up to The Giving Pledge in 2013, a commitment by some of the world's richest people to dedicate the majority of their wealth to charity.

His life-long interest in bravery led to the creation of the largest collection of Victoria Crosses (VCs) in the world which is displayed in the Lord Ashcroft Gallery at the Imperial War Museum London. Lord Ashcroft has varied and substantial business interests around the world in public and private companies. He has written 26 books, largely on politics and bravery.

He was knighted and created a life peer in 2000, resigning from the House of Lords in 2015 to focus on other areas of work. Lord Ashcroft is a Knight Grand Collar of the Most Sacred Order of the Holy Trinity (Ethiopia), a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and a Senior Fellow of the International Strategic Studies Association.

Lord Ashcroft carries out extensive polling, mainly linked to his interest in politics, and the quality of his work in this area is widely acclaimed. His current business roles include being Chairman of Waterloo Investment Holdings Limited, Non-Executive Chairman of Impellam Group plc, and a Non-Executive Director of Merit Group plc.



Rt. Hon. Kemi Badenoch MP

Secretary of State for Business and Trade, President of the Board of Trade and Minister for Women & Equalities of the United Kingdom

The Right Honourable Kemi Badenoch MP was appointed Secretary of State for Business and Trade on February 7th, 2023. She remains Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade, which she was appointed on September 6th, 2022, and Minister for Women and Equalities, which she was appointed to on October 25th, 2022.

Previously, she was Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities between September 16th, 2021 and July 6th, 2022.

She was Minister of State for Equalities between February 2020 and July 2022.

She was previously Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury from February 13th, 2020 to September 15th, 2021 and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Education from July 27th, 2019 to February 13th, 2020.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



James Cleverly, MP

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom

Mr. Cleverly was elected as the Member of Parliament for Braintree in May 2015 and currently serves as the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs. Mr. Cleverly was previously Secretary of State for Education from July 2022 until September 2022. Prior to this, Mr. Cleverly held the position of Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office since February 2020.

Mr. Cleverly served as Chairman of the Conservative and Unionist Party from July 2019 until February 2020, playing a key role in the largest Conservative election victory since the 1980s. Before this, he held the roles of Parliamentary-Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union from April 2019 to February 2020, and Deputy Chairman of the Conservative and Unionist Party from January 2018 to April 2019. He was, until May 2016, the London Assembly Member for Bexley and Bromley, and ran the Fire & Emergency Planning portfolio at City Hall.

Mr. Cleverly has previously served on the Metropolitan Police Authority including the counter-terrorism committee and professional standards committee.

Mr. Cleverly comes from a background in web and print publishing. He has a business degree from the University of West London and before being elected was the co-founder of a company that runs websites helping entrepreneurs and small businesses grow and develop. Mr. Cleverly is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Reserve Forces with over 20 years of experience.



Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.

Chairman of the RNC (1983–1989), London Declaration Signatory, USA

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Fahrenkopf gained national prominence during the 1980s as Chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC) for six of President Ronald Reagan's years in the White House (1983-1989). Mr. Fahrenkopf led the Party through two successful Presidential campaigns (1984, 1988) and served as Chairman longer than any other person in the 20th century, and the second longest in history.

From 1985 until 2013, Mr. Fahrenkopf was President and CEO of the American Gaming Association (AGA). Since retirement from the AGA, Mr. Fahrenkopf has served in a variety of corporate and political capacities. He is Co-Chairman of the Commission of Presidential Debates which he co-founded in 1986. He serves as board member of the International Republican Institute, which he founded in 1984. Mr. Fahrenkopf also sits on the Board of Directors of 13 New York Stock Exchange public companies.

Mr. Fahrenkopf was the Co-Founder of the National Endowment for Democracy and served as Vice Chairman and Board Member from 1983 to 1993. He served for many years as the Chairman of the Pacific Democrat Union and Vice Chairman of the International Democrat Union.

Mr. Fahrenkopf was a partner in the law firm Hogan & Hartson from 1985 to 1995. His early legal career included 17 years of practice as a trial and gaming lawyer in Nevada, his home state. Fahrenkopf has held various positions relating to his legal career. For many years, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Judicial College, the ABA-sponsored education center for federal and state judges; Chairman of the Coalition for Justice, a group coordinating the ABA's initiatives to improve the American justice system; and Chairman of the Legal Policy Advisory Board of the Washington Legal Foundation.

Fahrenkopf serves as a Trustee Emeritus of the Culinary Institute of America, a Trustee of the E.L. Weigand Foundation, and formerly served on the Advisory Board of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA). He has been a member of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta since 1987.

Mr. Fahrenkopf is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno in 1962 and the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley in 1965. He and his wife Mary have three daughters.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Antonia Ferrier

Vice President for External Affairs at the International Republican Institute

Antonia Ferrier serves as Vice President for External Affairs at the International Republican Institute (IRI), a non-partisan nonprofit dedicated to spreading democracy worldwide. She leads the organization's strategic external planning and engagement, including global media relations, communications and media relations, advocacy, and private sector partnerships and fundraising.

Antonia spent nearly 15 years on Capitol Hill where she worked on the front lines of some of the most significant policy and legislative debates of the last two decades. She spearheaded strategic planning and communications on a wide range of issues, including tax, trade, and health policy to some of the most senior members of the House and Senate, including Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and former House Speaker John Boehner.

After leaving Capitol Hill, Antonia provided strategic counsel to Fortune 50 companies, trade associations and non-profits across multiple industries, including healthcare, energy, and financial services.

Antonia served as a Fellow at Georgetown University's Institute of Politics, has participated in international delegations overseas, and has appeared in numerous news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Associated Press*, *BBC*, *NPR*, *CNN*, *Fox*, and *MSNBC*, among others.

Born in Bristol, England and raised in Lexington, Massachusetts, Antonia received a bachelor's degree in international studies from the American University in Washington, DC where she lives today.



Lord Dean Godson

Director, Policy Exchange, United Kingdom

Lord Godson is Director of Policy Exchange, the UK's most influential think tank. He was created Lord Godson in February 2021 and is a Conservative Member of the House of Lords, where he sits on the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Northern Ireland.

Dean has had a major impact on a range of public policy issues in recent years. In response to the Government review of its counter-radicalization strategy in June 2011, one leading columnist, Matthew d'Ancona, wrote that the review was "a tribute to an intellectual battle fought over the years by the modernising think tank, Policy Exchange and, specifically, the head of its foreign policy and security unit, Dean Godson". Dean was also at the forefront of the Routemaster Campaign to save London's much loved 'hop-on, hop-off' Routemaster buses – a role for which he was later denounced by Ken Livingstone, former London Mayor, in his memoirs. In June 2013 Dean was listed amongst Britain's most influential thinkers of 2013 by the London Evening Standard in its annual survey of 'The Power 1,000'.

Prior to joining Policy Exchange Dean was Chief Editorial Writer of *The Daily Telegraph*, the UK's top-selling centre-right broadsheet. He also worked as Associate Director of *The Spectator* under Frank Johnson and Boris Johnson's editorships (prior to the latter becoming Mayor for London) and was a Contributing Editor for *Prospect* magazine.

Before becoming a journalist, Dean lived and worked in Washington DC where he worked as an aide to Hon John Lehman, US Secretary of the Navy during the Reagan Administration.

He is the author of *Himself Alone: David Trimble and the Ordeal of Unionism* (Harper Collins, 2004), widely hailed as one of the most authoritative books on the Troubles.

He has regularly commented on national and international affairs for *The Times*, *Sunday Times*, *The Spectator*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *Prospect* magazine.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Oleksiy Goncharenko

**Member of Parliament,
European Solidarity, Ukraine**

Oleksiy Goncharenko is a Ukrainian politician, member of the Ukrainian parliament, member of the Ukrainian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and Vice President of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

Even though he graduated with honours from Medical University, he chose a political career over a medical one. He is a member of the “European Solidarity” group in Parliament, and head of the caucuses “For a Democratic Belarus,” and “For a Free Caucasus”.

After the start of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Oleksiy Goncharenko joined the country’s civilian Territorial Defense Forces for the first month. He has fought against Russian propaganda and publishes widely in international media in order to bring the truth to the world about Ukraine.

He was included in the sanctioned persons lists of the Russian Federation.

Oleksiy is a founder of Ukraine’s largest network of educational-cultural centers, the Goncharenko Centers, which since February 2022 have become volunteer hubs.

Their main goal is to enable residents of small towns of Ukraine to learn foreign languages for free and improve their skills in other areas of science, art, and provide social activity opportunities.



Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović

4th President of Croatia

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović is the 4th and 1st female President of Croatia (2015-2020) with broad experience in politics, diplomacy, geopolitics and security studies. She was elected a Member of the Croatian Parliament (2003), served as Croatia's first female Minister of Foreign Affairs (2003-2008) and Ambassador to the United States, co-accredited to Mexico, Panama, and the Organization of American States (2008-2011), as well as the first female Assistant Secretary General, and member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Senior Leadership (2011-2014).

Currently, she is an Executive in Residence at the Zagreb School of Economics and Management, a geopolitical expert, and speaker. She is a member of the GLOBSEC International Advisory Board, the Future Security and Defense Council, and Ukraine Support Group, and is on the boards of non-profit institutions such as the US Atlantic Council, Halifax International Security Forum, Concordia Leadership Council, and Friends of Europe. She is an independent member of the International Olympic Committee and Chair of the Future Hosts Commission for the Games of the Olympiad. She is a Member of the High-Level Advisory Council for the High Representative for the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the Global Ambassador for Immunization for Women Political Leaders (WPL), and chair emerita of the Council of Women World Leaders.

She has pursued an academic career in government, international relations, and security studies at the Vienna Diplomatic Academy (1994-1995), the George Washington University (2002-2003), Harvard University (2009), the Johns Hopkins University (2011), and the University of Zagreb. She received the 2019 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement award for her "remarkable contributions as a leader, diplomat, and public servant", the George Washington University President's medal, and a number of other national and international awards, decorations, recognitions, honorary doctorates and honorary citizenships.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Lord William Hague

**Former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom,
Former Chairman of the IDU**

The Rt. Hon. Lord Hague of Richmond, William Hague, served for 26 years in the British House of Commons until he stood down in 2015. In that time, he served in many senior roles, including Leader of the House of Commons, but is best known as the Leader of the Conservative party (1997-2001), and First Secretary of State and Foreign Secretary (2010-2014). He chaired the IDU from 1999 to 2002.

He now pursues a wide range of business and charitable activities and is a well-known writer of historical biographies and a columnist of *The Times*. In November 2020 Lord Hague became Chair of the Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales.



Rt. Hon. Greg Hands, MP

Chairman U.K. Conservative Party

Born in 1965 to British parents in New York, Greg lived in the USA until his family returned to the UK when he was seven. Greg studied Modern History at Cambridge University. He joined the Conservative Party whilst at Cambridge. Greg then began a career in finance. In 1998 Greg was elected as a Councillor in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham and from 1999 until 2003 he was Leader of the Conservative council group.

In 2005 Greg was elected as Member of Parliament for Hammersmith and Fulham, taking the marginal seat from Labour. In 2010 Greg was selected to fight the newly created constituency of Chelsea & Fulham which he won with a huge majority. Greg successfully defended his seat in the 2015, 2017 and 2019 General Elections.

In opposition, Greg served as Shadow Treasury Minister, and after the 2010 General Election he was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In October 2011, Greg joined the Government Whips. In 2013, he was appointed Deputy Chief Whip and Treasurer of HM Household.

Following the 2015 General Election, Greg was appointed Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Greg carried out the 2015 Spending Review, which set out all of Government spending for almost five years, the longest and most successful review ever undertaken.

In July 2016, under Prime Minister Theresa May, Greg was appointed Minister of State in the newly created Department of International Trade. He resigned from this position in 2018 to keep his promise to vote against a third runway at Heathrow airport. Greg was re-appointed Minister of State for Trade Policy in the Department for International Trade by in February 2020. From September 2021 until September 2022, Greg served as Minister of State for Climate Change, Clean Growth and Energy. He served as Minister of State for Trade Policy under Prime Ministers Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak. In February 2023 he was appointed Chairman of the Conservative Party. He attends Cabinet.

Greg has lived in Fulham since 1990. He is married with two children.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper

IDU Chairman and
22nd Prime Minister of Canada

For nearly a decade The Right Honourable Stephen J. Harper led Canada through the world's most complex geopolitical, economic and security challenges as the country's 22nd Prime Minister. He created the modern Conservative Party of Canada, won three successive national elections, and was the longest serving Conservative Prime Minister since Canada's founding Prime Minister in 1891.

Since leaving office in 2016, Mr. Harper founded and is Chairman and CEO of Harper & Associates, a global strategic advisory firm, and is the co-founder and Chairman of Vision One, a Miami-based investment fund. He serves as a Director of Colliers International Group Inc. and Recover Inc. Mr. Harper is also the author of *Right Here, Right Now: Politics and Leadership in the Age of Disruption*, and a frequent speaker on geopolitical trends, populism, and business.

Mr. Harper serves as Chairman of the International Democrat Union, the Friends of Israel Initiative, and is a member of the Global Advisory Board of India's Observer Research Foundation. He holds bachelor and master's degrees in economics from the University of Calgary, an honorary doctorate from Tel Aviv University and an honorary degree from the Jerusalem College of Technology. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada, a member of the King's Privy Council for Canada, and the recipient of numerous international recognitions, including the Order of Liberty, Ukraine's highest civilian honour.

Mr. Harper resides in Alberta, Canada with his wife Laureen; they have two adult children, Benjamin and Rachel.



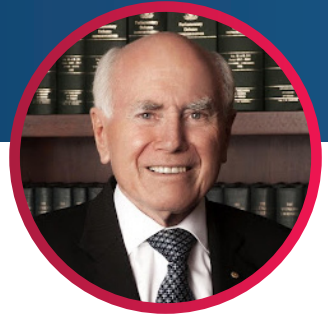
Andreas Hellmann

Director of Outreach, Tax and Regulatory Policy, Tholos Foundation

Andreas Hellmann is Director of International Tax and Regulatory Policy at the Tholos Foundation. Tholos opposes all tax increases as a matter of principle. They believe in a system in which taxes are simpler, flatter, more visible, and lower than they are today. The government's power to control one's life derives from its power to tax. They believe that power should be minimized.

He primarily focuses on issues of international taxation, regulation, and trade restrictions like the upcoming wave of digital taxation around the world. Secondly, he is responsible for building new centre-right coalitions and relationships with a focus on Europe.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Hon. John Winston Howard OM AC

**Former Prime Minister of Australia,
Former Chairman of the IDU**

John Winston Howard, born on July 26 1939, served as Australia's Prime Minister from March 1996 to November 2007. He is the nation's second longest serving Prime Minister, was a Member of Parliament for 33 years, and was Treasurer in an earlier government.

Under his leadership, Australia enjoyed continued economic growth averaging 3.6% per annum. His government delivered major economic reform in the areas of taxation, workplace relations, privatization and welfare. \$96 billion of government debt was repaid by the Howard Government. When it left office in November 2007, the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia had no net debt, and its budget was in surplus, which allowed Australia to suffer relatively few consequences from the global financial crisis.

Shortly after Mr. Howard came to power, he responded to the massacre of 35 people by a lone gunman at Port Arthur in Tasmania with the implementation of national gun control laws, which included a general prohibition on the ownership or possession of automatic or semi-automatic weapons.

John Howard's government strongly supported the United States and other nations in the fight against terrorism. Australia contributed military forces to operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. The Howard government strengthened bilateral ties between Australia and many nations in Asia. During Mr. Howard's time as Prime Minister, China became Australia's largest export destination. He was strongly committed to close relations between Australia and the United Kingdom. Mr. Howard played a major role in defeating a referendum proposal in 1999 for Australia to become a republic.

Mr. Howard is a Companion of the Order of Australia and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States by President George W. Bush. In January 2012, Queen Elizabeth II appointed Mr. Howard to the Order of Merit. In 2013, he received the Japanese Award, the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.



Tomi Huhtanen

Executive Director at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Tomi Huhtanen studied International Politics and Economics at the University of Helsinki and spent a year in Spain at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid studying International Law and Political History. He also holds an MBA degree from the United Business Institutes in Brussels.

Tomi started his career by working for the Finnish delegation of the European People's Party in the European Parliament. From 1999 to 2007, he was a Political Advisor and subsequently a Senior Adviser for the EPP, mainly focusing on economic and social policy. During this period, he launched the *European View* policy journal, of which he became Editor-in-Chief.

In 2007, Tomi was put in charge of launching the political foundation of the European People's Party, the Centre for European Studies (renamed the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies in 2014); in the same year, Tomi was nominated as the Centre's Director, and is, since October 2015, its Executive Director.

Tomi has provided analysis on a host of political issues for European and international outlets such as *Euronews*, the *Hindustan Times*, *Deutsche Welle*, and the *Financial Times*. Tomi speaks Finnish, Swedish, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Greek, and has basic knowledge of German.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Janez Janša

Former Prime Minister of Slovenia

Janez Janša (born 17 September 1958) is a Slovenian politician who served three times as Prime Minister of Slovenia, a position he had held from 2004 to 2008, from 2012 to 2013, and from 2020 to 2022.

Since 1993, Janša has led the Slovenian Democratic Party, which has emerged as the pre-eminent Slovenian conservative party. Janša served as Minister of Defence from 1990 to 1994, a post he had also held during the Slovenian War of Independence.

Janša served as prime minister from 2004 to 2008, and again became prime minister in 2012, following an early election in December 2011.

Despite his party winning a plurality of votes in the 2018 Slovenian parliamentary election, Janša was initially passed over as a prime minister. After spending years in opposition, Janša was selected as prime minister-designate in March 2020 following the resignation of Prime Minister Marjan Šarec. His third term as prime minister ended on May 13, 2022.



Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (2019–2022)

The Right Honourable Boris Johnson has served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Leader of the Conservative Party, Foreign Secretary, Mayor of London and the Member of Parliament for Uxbridge and South Ruislip. In 2019 he led the Conservative Party to an extraordinary election victory, with their biggest majority in the House of Commons since 1987 and the highest share of the vote of any party since 1979.

He unleashed a visionary agenda of domestic policy reform, with a focus on infrastructure, education, and technology. He worked to ‘unite and level up’ the country, a major cross-government project to address regional economic and social disparities. He worked to protect the union of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, and tackled unresolved challenges such as adult social care.

He led the UK through the darkest days of the pandemic, at one point becoming seriously ill from the disease. He commissioned the world’s foremost scientists and industrialists to work on a UK vaccine, resulting in the discovery of the Oxford AstraZeneca jab. His government delivered the fastest vaccine and booster rollout in Europe, allowing the UK economy to reopen and lift restrictions more quickly. Under his leadership, the UK emerged from the crisis as the fastest growing economy in the G7.

More recently, Mr. Johnson emerged as the preeminent global leader in the effort to support Ukraine in its fight against Russian invasion, committing more than £2.4 billion in military assistance, huge humanitarian support and becoming Ukraine’s foremost European political partner.

Mr. Johnson entered Parliament in 2001. He was twice elected Mayor of London (with the biggest personal mandate ever won in British politics). Returning to the House of Commons in 2015, Mr. Johnson served as Foreign Secretary.

In addition to his work in politics, Mr. Johnson is an award-winning journalist, writer, and editor. He is the author of almost a dozen books, from the globally bestselling historical biography of Winston Churchill, *The Churchill Factor*, to the self-illustrated children’s book *The Perils Of Pushy Parents*.

Mr. Johnson, who was born in New York City, has a special affection for the United States. He was educated at Eton College and the University of Oxford, and married his wife, Carrie.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Enda Kenny TD

Former Taoiseach of Ireland

Enda Kenny TD was Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland from March 2011 until he stepped down in June 2017.

He led Ireland from its worst recession, when the country had to join an IMF/EU/ECB bailout program, back to prosperity and to becoming the fastest growing economy in Europe for the last three years. Under his leadership, Ireland regained full access to the financial markets in 2013, unemployment, which had stood at over 15%, dropped to 6%, and interest rates on Irish borrowing fell from 15% to zero, a truly remarkable turnaround.

He oversaw a smooth transfer of power to his party colleague, Leo Varadkar, in June but he will remain a member of parliament until the next General Election.

A politician for over 40 years, he was first elected in 1975 and has been re-elected at each of the 11 subsequent General Elections. He also served as Minister for Tourism and Trade and in Education and Labour, and was a member of many committees including The New Ireland Forum, specially set up to deal with Northern Ireland issues.

In 2015 following the report of a citizens convention on the issue of marriage equality, his government held a referendum and changed the Irish constitution to allow for same-sex marriages, the first country to do so in this manner.

He also changed the relationship between government and the Catholic Church following a series of scandals exposed within the Church. He held the Presidency of the EU in 2013 and oversaw the agreement of its budget of €960 billion. He served as Vice President of the European People's Party at the European Parliament for 6 years. His contribution in the White House in March (2017) on immigration was followed by millions of viewers.

Mr. Kenny assumed leadership of the Party at a time when it had suffered a major defeat in a general election. Following his campaign to revitalize it, he led Fine Gael to victory at the 2011 General Election, with his party becoming the largest in the state for the first time.

Under his leadership Fine Gael became the largest party in local, Dáil and European Parliament level, a result never achieved previously. He became Taoiseach for the second time in 2016.

Mr. Kenny currently serves on various boards and also represents Worldwide Support for Development (WSD) as its Patron.



Brian Loughnane AO

Deputy Chairman of the IDU

Brian Loughnane AO was Federal Director of the Liberal Party of Australia from 2002 until February 2016. In that time he ran four national campaigns as Coalition Campaign Director.

He is currently a business and political strategic advisor. Brian was previously State Director of the Victorian Division of the Liberal Party of Australia from 2000-2003. He commenced his business career with Shell Australia in 1982 and worked in the oil and gas industry for 15 years until the mid-1990's.

Brian has extensive international political experience with major centre-right parties around the world and is currently Deputy Chairman of the IDU.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Lorenzo Montanari

Executive Director of the Property Rights Alliance

Lorenzo Montanari is Vice President of International Affairs at the Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and Tholos Foundation and Executive Director of the Property Rights Alliance (PRA), an advocacy group affiliated with Tholos Foundation for the protection of physical and intellectual property rights, both domestically and internationally. As VP of the international affairs, Montanari has been organizing International Coalition Meeting (ICM) in partnership with Acton Institute since 2013. He organized training workshops in Europe, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. He is the editor of the International Property Rights Index and the Trade Barrier Index.

Previously, Montanari worked for a public affairs firm and for the international department of the GSPM/George Washington University in Washington, DC as well as a political analyst and electoral observer in Latin America. Montanari holds a BA in Political Science, a MA in International Relations from the University of Bologna and MA in Political Management from the George Washington University. He collaborates with Forbes. He is a co-founder of Institute Mercatus, and a board member of *The European Conservative* Magazine and on the board of Trustees of the International Freedom Education Foundation.



Hon. Scott Morrison

30th Prime Minister of Australia

As Prime Minister of Australia from 2018 to 2022, Scott Morrison successfully led his nation through the most difficult and significant challenges Australia had faced since the Great Depression and the Second World War. Under his leadership Australia had the 3rd lowest COVID fatality rate in the OECD, one of the highest vaccination rates in the world and an economic response that saw Australia outperform all G7 and most OECD nations in employment and economic growth.

On the international stage, Mr. Morrison was known for his leadership role to counter an increasingly assertive China in the Indo-Pacific region with the establishment of the Quad leaders' dialogue with India, Japan, and the USA; the landmark AUKUS trilateral defence agreement between Australia, the USA and the UK, and restoring Australian defence spending to more than 2% of GDP.

Domestically Mr. Morrison stewarded the Australian economy to its lowest unemployment rate in almost 50 years, while being one of only nine countries in the world to maintain a AAA credit rating from all major international credit rating agencies.

First elected to Parliament in 2007, Mr. Morrison served as Federal Treasurer designing and implementing major income tax, banking, housing, and financial technology reforms and restored the federal budget balance prior to the 2020 pandemic. Mr. Morrison also served as Minister for Social Services and Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

Prior to entering parliament Mr. Morrison served in a series of senior executive roles in the private and Government sector in tourism, events, and commercial real estate, both in Australia and New Zealand, including as Managing Director of Tourism Australia.

Mr. Morrison holds a Bachelor of Applied Science with Honours in Economic Geography from the University of New South Wales, where he graduated in 1990.

Scott Morrison has served as the Federal Member for Cook since 2007. In this role he is involved in supporting many local clubs, associations and charitable causes throughout the Shire and St George area.

Mr. Morrison has been married to his wife Jenny since 1990. They have two teenage daughters who attend local schools in the Shire and they live together in Port Hacking.

Mr. Morrison and his family are active members of Horizon Church in Sutherland.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Anne-Elisabeth Moutet

Columnist, *The Telegraph*, *UnHerd*, *FranceInfo TV*,
The European Conservative

Anne-Elisabeth Moutet is a columnist for *The Telegraph* (London) and for the French television national broadcaster news channel *FranceInfo TV*. She is a regular contributor to the *BBC*, *GB News*, *Deutsche Welle*, *WION TV* (New Delhi), and writes for *UnHerd*, *The European Conservative*, *The Spectator*, and *Perspective Magazine*.

A native of Paris, Anne-Elisabeth has been the US, then Italy correspondent for *France Soir* (Paris), Paris correspondent for *The Sunday Times* (London) Paris Bureau Chief for *The European* newspaper, and France Editor for *Newsweek Europe*. She sits on the Board of Advisers of *Zenger News* (Washington DC), is a co-founder and vice-president of the Institut Jean-Jacques Rousseau in Paris and sits on the Steering Committee of the Club of Three (London). Her last book is the collective work *Illiberalism in Europe* (Centre for Policy Studies), 2019.



Caroline Nokes, MP

Chair of the Women and Equalities Select Committee in Parliament, United Kingdom

Mrs. Nokes is the Member of Parliament for Romsey and Southampton North and the current Chair of the Women and Equalities Select Committee in Parliament. Since her election in 2010, she has served as a Minister in the Department for Work and Pensions, the Cabinet Office and was Minister of State for Immigration in Theresa May's Cabinet. Immediately prior to becoming an MP, she was the Chief Executive of an animal welfare charity.

Caroline is currently the co-chair of the APPG for Muslim Women, Vice Chair of "Show Racism the Red Card". As Chair of the Select Committee, Caroline has headed up inquiries into the gendered economic impact of Covid, menopause in the workplace, and reform of the Gender Recognition Act. The current focus of the Committee is on the cultures underpinning misogyny and abuse against women and girls, tackling so called honour-based abuse, and discrimination in the UK asylum process.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Petro Poroshenko

Fifth President of Ukraine, Chairman of European Solidarity

Petro Poroshenko is the Chairman of the Political Party “European Solidarity”, the Co-Chairman of the parliamentary group “European Solidarity”, the member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (the Parliament of Ukraine), and the 5th President of Ukraine (2014-2019).

Petro Poroshenko was born in the city of Bolhrad, Odesa region, on September 26th, 1965. From 1982 to 1989, he studied at Taras Shevchenko National University from which he graduated with a Diploma in International Economic Relations. From 1989 to 1992, he worked as a postgraduate student assistant at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. From 1993 to 1998, he served as CEO of corporation group “Ukrprominvest”.

In 1998 he was elected as a Member of the Parliament of Ukraine serving in roles such as the Deputy Head of the National Bank Council of Ukraine and Head of the Committee on Budget Issues of the Parliament, Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine and Chair of the Committee on Finance and Banking Activity of the Parliament of Ukraine. In 2009, he was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and in 2012 the Minister of Economic Development and Trade. The same year, Mr. Poroshenko served as Co-Head of the Committee on Parliamentary Cooperation between Ukraine and the EU. He was one of the key leaders of the Revolution of Dignity and strong promoters of the European and Euro-Atlantic integration course of Ukraine.

In May 2014, he won in the first round of the early presidential elections and became the 5th President of Ukraine. The conclusion and entry into force of Ukraine-EU Association Agreement, introduction of visa-free regime between the EU and Ukraine, creation of new modernized NATO-standard Ukrainian Armed Forces, as well as consolidation of international unity and solidarity with Ukraine against Russian aggression are among the key achievements of his presidency.

After defeat in 2019 presidential elections, Mr. Poroshenko was elected as the Chairman of the Political Party “European Solidarity” and led the party to the new Parliament of Ukraine following early parliamentary elections in July 2019.

Petro Poroshenko is an honoured economist of Ukraine, laureate of the State Prize of Ukraine in the sphere of science and technology, laureate of P. Orlyk international prize, and holder of the Grand Cross Order of Civil Merit of the Kingdom of Spain. In 1998, Mr. Poroshenko established a signature Charity Fund which carries out charity projects in various spheres of social life. He is married to Maryna Poroshenko and they have 4 children.



Nicola Richards, MP

Member of Parliament, Conservative Party, United Kingdom

Nicola Richards MP was elected as the Member of Parliament for West Bromwich East in December 2019. She currently serves as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Leader of the House of Commons, Penny Mordaunt MP. Since being elected to Parliament, she has previously sat on both the Education Select Committee and the Women and Equalities Select Committee. She is currently the Conservative Party's representative on the International Young Democratic Union. After graduating from the University of Birmingham, Nicola worked in public relations for the Jewish Leadership Council and the Holocaust Educational Trust.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr Robert Seely MBE

**Member of Parliament, Conservative Party,
United Kingdom**

Dr. Robert is the Member of Parliament for the Isle of Wight. He sits on the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee and is Chair of both the Ukraine and Russia All-Party Parliamentary Groups.

Dr Seely writes academically and journalistically on foreign affairs as well as more generally on non-conventional and new forms of conflict. Prior to his election in June 2017, Dr Seely served on the Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and ISIS campaigns as a member of the Armed Forces.

From 1990 to 1994, Dr Seely lived in the Soviet Union and post-Soviet states. Dr Seely has written one of the few peer-reviewed studies of Contemporary Russian Conflict Strategy available in the West and holds a PhD in Russian military strategy.



Erna Solberg

Former Prime Minister of Norway

Erna Solberg was born and educated in Bergen: Norway's ancient maritime capital and gateway to the Atlantic Ocean.

Erna Solberg has combined numerous national positions as Minister, Parliamentarian, and regional politician with a strong commitment to global solutions for development, growth, and conflict resolution.

As Prime Minister, and former Chair of the Norwegian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, she has championed transatlantic values and security.

In 2018 she assembled a global High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and introduced the topic at the G7 Summit. Her government supports the World Bank's PROblue initiative to prevent marine damage.

From 2016 the Prime Minister has co-chaired the UN Secretary General's Advocacy group for the Sustainable Development goals. Among the goals, she takes a particular interest in access to quality education for all, in particular girls and children in conflict areas. This was also central in her work as MDG Advocate from 2013 to 2016.

Solberg has secured significant financial support for the Global Partnership for Education and hosted the Global Finance Facility for women's and children's health pledging Conference in Oslo in November 2018. Her firm belief is that investment in education will accelerate progress on all other SDG goals. She was awarded the inaugural Global Citizen World Leader Award in 2018 for her international engagement.

Solberg has been leader of the Conservative Party of Norway (EPP, IDU) since 2004 and has held the position as Prime Minister since the General Election in 2013. She was re-elected in September 2017.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Rt. Hon. Liz Truss, MP

Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Liz has been the Conservative Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk since 2010 and served as the 56th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, during which time she led the nation in mourning Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as King Charles III acceded to the throne.

She continuously held ministerial office for more than ten years between 2012 and 2022 and, after an initial spell as a junior education minister, sat at the Cabinet table in six different roles, prior to becoming Prime Minister: Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice; Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Secretary of State for International Trade; and Foreign Secretary - as well as Minister for Women and Equalities.



Manfred Weber, MEP

Chairman of the European People's Party (EPP) and the EPP Group in the European Parliament

In July 1972, Manfred Weber was born in the district of Landshut. He went to school in rural Wildenberg about an hour's drive from Munich. It is where he still lives today with his wife. His school career led him from elementary school in Wildenberg to technical high school and later to a physical engineering degree at the University of Applied Sciences in Munich.

Many of the valuable lessons in life he has learned as a volunteer for the Catholic youth movement, playing in a band touring the region and participating in village life and the CSU youth organization. His home and his youth have shaped the person he is today: Manfred is proud of his home in Bavaria, just as he is a proud European.

He chose to become a candidate for the European Parliament in 2004 because he wanted to work among Europeans. After the European elections in 2019, where Manfred had the honour to be lead candidate for the EPP, he was re-elected EPP Group chair, after having been elected a first time in 2014.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe **President of Sri Lanka and** **Leader of the United National Party**

Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected by Parliament as the ninth President of Sri Lanka in July 2022 following the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa due to a public uprising.

Ranil Wickremesinghe has served as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on six occasions. He is the Leader of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka's oldest political party. He is one of Sri Lanka's most senior and experienced legislators who has served the country as an MP in all Parliaments since 1977 (apart from a break of 10 months from August 2020 to June 2021).

Born in 1949, a lawyer by profession, he was elected to Parliament in 1977 (aged 28), having worked in the Youth League of the UNP from his university days. As the youngest Minister in Sri Lanka at the time, he held the post of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs under President Jayewardene. Very soon, in recognition of his exceptional talents and unique capacity for work, he was appointed to the Cabinet of Ministers as the Minister of Youth Affairs and Employment. Later on, he was given the portfolio of education. In 1989, he was the Leader of the House under President Premadasa. He also served as the Minister of Industries, Science and Technology.

In 1994, Ranil Wickremesinghe became the Leader of the United National Party. Ranil Wickremesinghe was appointed the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, a position he held from 1994 to 2001 and 2004 to 2015.

President Wickremesinghe was educated at Royal College, Colombo. In 2014, he was the Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow at the Centre for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, USA. In 2017, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Deakin, Australia. He was appointed the Asia Pacific Democrat Union Chair (2015 - 2022) and has been an (ex officio) Deputy Chair of the International Democrat Union. Ranil Wickremesinghe is married to Maithree Wickramasinghe.



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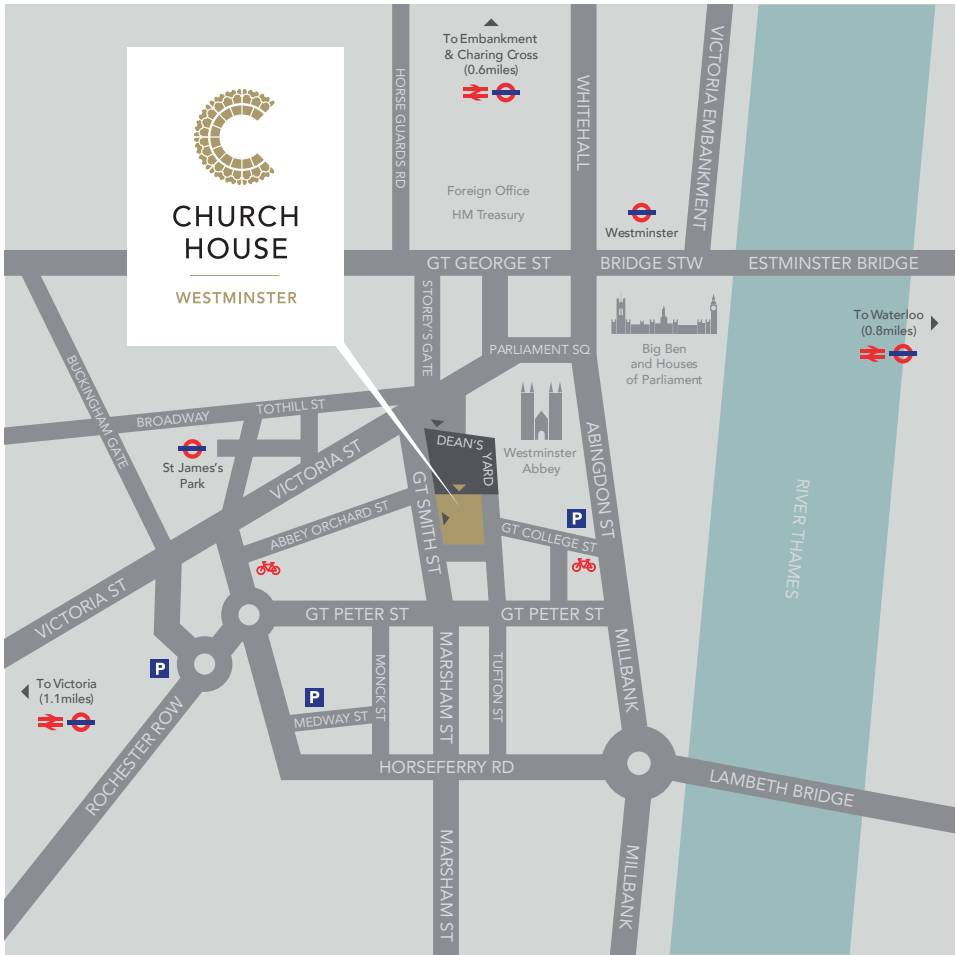


The IDU wishes to thank our partners for their generous support for **IDU Forum 2023!**

LOCATION

Dean's Yard

London, SW1P 3NZ



DIRECTIONS

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

UNDERGROUND

- 🚶 St James's Park 5 minute walk
- 🚶 Westminster 7 minute walk
- 🚶🚶 Victoria 15 minute walk
- 🚶🚶 Waterloo 20 minute walk

BUSES

Victoria Street 11, 24, 211, 148
Millbank 3, 77A, 159
Parliament Square 12, 53, 109

AIRPORTS

Heathrow, Gatwick, City,
Stansted and Luton

SANTANDER CYCLE HIRE

Nearest docking stations:
Abbey Orchard Street,
Westminster 3 minute walk
Abingdon Green, Westminster
3 minute walk

UNDERGROUND

FROM ST JAMES'S PARK

Leave the station via the Broadway exit (straight ahead) and head down Tothill Street. When you reach the end, you will see Westminster Abbey. Cross over the road going towards the Abbey. On your right you will see a small archway with a security cabin and a gate. Go through the archway into Dean's Yard and head towards the large building facing you at the end of the yard - this is Church House.

FROM WESTMINSTER

Leave the station via exit 4, turn right and walk to the first set of traffic lights on your left. Cross the road going towards the Houses of Parliament. Go straight ahead past the Houses of Parliament until you reach the next set of pedestrian lights. Turn right and walk past Westminster Abbey. At the end of the Abbey you will see a small archway on your left with a security cabin to the side. Go through the archway into Dean's Yard. Church House is the large building facing you at the end.

FROM VICTORIA

Leave the station by the front entrance. Cross the first road on the right (Vauxhall Bridge Road) and walk straight down Victoria Street for approximately 15 minutes until you reach Westminster Abbey. Standing in front of the Abbey, you will see a small archway with a security cabin to the right. Go through the archway into Dean's Yard and head towards the large building facing you at the end of the yard - this is Church House.

CONTACT

International Democrat Union

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