

# Commonwealth Day Message 2025



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Video Message

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Hello, I'm Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning.

The theme for Commonwealth Day 2025 is “Together We Thrive,” which celebrates the enduring spirit of the Commonwealth Family. It emphasises unity, peace, and fostering strong, connected communities. Now, more than ever, this year's theme encapsulates the strength and bonds of this family — a unifying network of nations working together to uplift all citizens and build a future defined by opportunity and resilience.

Since our founding 37 years ago as an intergovernmental organisation of the Commonwealth of now 56 nations, the Commonwealth of Learning has been committed to promoting equitable access to quality lifelong learning for all – believing, in effect, that access to learning opportunities will lead to progress in achieving sustainable development.

Today, as we honour Commonwealth Day 2025, we're reminded of the incredible diversity that brings together 2.4 billion people across our family of nations. Our shared cultures, languages, and traditions create a vibrant community bonded by unity and purpose.

Education is at the heart of this unity – not just about gaining knowledge, transforming lives, uplifting communities, and building lasting peace. Education helps us reach beyond our differences by bringing us closer together. As the world seems darker and more challenging, it is yet more important for a family to draw together, share our light and shine it brightly on the positive changes we can make together.

One very bright light on our horizon will come in September this year; our commonwealth family will join lights together in Botswana for the Pan-Commonwealth Forum on open learning and focus on integrating sustainability and climate literacy into all educational efforts, driving away the darkness of inequity, that casts a long shadow.

At the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, our leaders emphasised the crucial need to shine this light on quality education accessible to everyone. They called for education to be open, equitable, and lifelong, something valuable that we can all share.

This call is the definition of the mission assigned to us to promote open, distance, and technology-enabled education for all.

We believe strongly that the brightest lights in darkness are innovative approaches, things like micro-credentials, flexible learning pathways, inclusive digital technologies, and yes artificial

intelligence tools. All these innovations can help learners everywhere, even in the most remote and resource-challenged communities.

Our Commonwealth leaders have also stressed the importance of preparing our young people for a changing world facing climate challenges, technological disruption, and evolving job markets. Education is key to building resilience. As Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." It helps bridge divides across genders, generations, and nations, fostering empathy, understanding, and dialogue.

So today, let's recommit to the core values of our Commonwealth family and the inclusive spirit that binds us together. Let's continue to shine the light of education to empower youth, strengthen resilience, and build that brighter future beyond darkness —for everyone.

Thank you, and happy Commonwealth Day.