

Premier Statement On the Occasion of the Second Annual Overseas Territory Day - Honouring Strategic Partnership and Enduring Constitutional Bonds

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Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025

As President of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA), I am honoured to mark the second Annual Overseas Territory Day. Celebrated each year on the first Monday in June, this day offers a dedicated moment to reflect on the profound strategic importance of the Overseas Territories and the enduring significance of our constitutional relationships with the United Kingdom.

This year's observance was commemorated under the theme, "The Strategic Importance of the Overseas Territories and the Enduring Significance of our Constitutional Relationships with the United Kingdom." Events to mark the day included:

- Flags were flown in Parliament Square;
- Evensong Choral service at the Guild Church of St Lawrence Jewry; and a
- Reception at Speaker's House hosted by the Speaker of the House Sir Lyndsay Hoyle

The Virgin Islands was represented by the Chair of UKOTA and BVI UK Representative, Tracy Bradshaw

Our Overseas Territories are not only vibrant communities rich in culture and heritage, they are vital partners in the UK family. Geographically diverse and strategically located, they play an important role in environmental stewardship, defence, security, global biodiversity, and maritime influence. Their contribution to the UK's global presence and values cannot be overstated.

This day serves as a powerful reminder of the diverse identities and shared values that bind our communities. From the Caribbean to the South Atlantic and the Pacific to the Mediterranean, our territories each carry unique stories, yet they are united by a firm spirit of resilience, enterprise, and pride. These qualities not only define the character of our communities but also underpin their strategic relevance and global reach.

Over the past year, our territories have continued to demonstrate leadership, resilience, and innovation. From advancing renewable energy solutions to protecting critical ecosystems and enhancing disaster preparedness, they exemplify what it means to act locally while thinking globally.

Today, we reaffirm our tenacious commitment to safeguarding and strengthening the constitutional bonds that unite us. These enduring relationships provide the foundation for mutual respect, responsible self-governance, and collaborative growth. We recognise the unique circumstances of each territory and remain focused on ensuring their voices are not only heard but are instrumental in shaping

policy and partnership.

As we celebrated this second Annual Overseas Territory Day, we did so with a clear understanding of our shared responsibilities and common future. In partnership, we can continue building a legacy defined by strategic cooperation, constitutional respect, and sustainable development.