

PROFESSOR DAVID SAGAR

(-2020)



Professor David Sagar served as Assistant Director in the Legal Division from 1971 to 1978..

- *Despite the string of high profile posts he went to after leaving the Secretariat, he was a Commonwealth person at heart. I remember when we put out a call to Association members to contribute their memories of life and work in the Secretariat for its 50th anniversary celebrations, he turned up with legal tomes he had written, newspaper cuttings and yarns of the 1970s. He had kept them all those years! Cheryl Dorall*

Selected links

[Prof. David William Sagar](#)

DR MBOLOLWA MBIKUSITA-LEWANIKA

(-2020)



Dr Mbololwa Mbikusita-Lewanika worked as Health Adviser from the early 2000s till her demise.

- *So very sorry to hear of another colleague's passing. Cheryl Dorall*
- *If like me you still attended the ComSec Easter or Christmas Services recently-ish you may have noticed that she was the current Chair of the ComSec Christian Fellowship group that until last Christmas was organising both of those events. I was very fond on Mbololwa, whom I got to know well by helping out twice a year at both of these events and I was very sad to hear of this news. In these times there can be no publicly attended funerals and to know I cannot therefore go to her funeral if I had the chance to, makes that even sadder for me. I can only pray that she is at peace and with God now. Annie Carlton*

Selected links:

[Commonwealth adviser worked tirelessly to improve health of billions](#)

[Zambian Born Academic Luminary And Barotse Princess Dr. Mbololwa Mbikusita-Lewanika Passes Away](#)

MS PATSY ROBERTSON

(1933-2020)



Ms Patsy Robertson, Director, Information Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, also served as the official Spokesperson for the Commonwealth and in several other capacities between 1965-1994.

- *It is with a heavy heart that I must convey to you the terrible news that Patsy Robertson, so long a fixture, a light and an inspiration in the lives of all of us, died about an hour ago.*

*At this moment, there are no words I can find to quantify the scale of our loss. For me, this is a time of raw grief, though I hope before long we will all be able to articulate the multiple ways in which Patsy touched our lives and the huge debt that we in the Commonwealth owe her for all that she did. In deepest sorrow, **Stuart Mole** (Deputy Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)*

- *Truly and deeply grievous tidings. Patsy's passing is an immeasurably sad loss for us all.*

Sandy Jones

- *It's impossible to comprehend that Patsy is no longer with us! Every time I looked through my emails there was always one from Patsy, giving her well-thought out views on a multitude of topics on the Commonwealth, and, indeed the world. Her analysis of different subjects was beyond measure. What a loss to all of us.*

It's so sad that our planned getting together with Patsy (when the pandemic was over, will never come to fruition! My husband and I had a wonderful time with her when she visited us in our new home, and she had invited us to go to her home early next year, so she'd hoped!

*I will definitely get in touch with her son John and daughter Sarah, as both my husband Ian and I will certainly want to participate in the celebration of her amazing life. With deepest sorrow and broken heart, **Evelyn Adlam***

- *Oh that is just terribly sad news. Thank you Stuart. No words except what a wonderful light to have touched the world. **Michele Law***
- *I am devastated by the news. Patsy was a great friend to all of us who worked with her and she will be very much missed. The Commonwealth has lost a great supporter and a we have all lost a dear dear friend. **Karen Brewer***
- *So very sad -- she was a force of nature, irreplaceable. **Richard Bourne***
- *Patsy was a wonderful woman, a powerhouse in Commonwealth relations and a good friend to everyone who knew her. She will as you say be sorely missed. A real loss for the Commonwealth. **Antony Ellman***
- *What heart-breaking news. Both in her long, long service in the Secretariat and for quarter of a century afterwards Patsy was truly the epitome of 'commonwealth' and the values our Commonwealth stands for. **Peter Williams***
- *The Commonwealth sky clouded over as Patsy Robertson left us an hour ago. She had given her life to the Commonwealth – from the Secretariat's beginning to her own end. I shared many years of the Commonwealth story with Patsy and attest to her unbounded devotion to the truest causes for which the Commonwealth stood; and I pay tribute to the service she gave over all the years – through the Secretariat and the Association and beyond – to the Commonwealth. I acknowledge my personal debt to her for all our work together world-wide, and pay homage to the memory of her service. May Patsy rest in peace and the Commonwealth fulfil the highest purposes to which she dedicated her life. **Sonny Ramphal** (Sir Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1975-1990)*
- *Truly shocked and saddened by this news. I am heartbroken. Just really getting to know Patsy and learning about all of her contributions to the Commonwealth during her years of service and since her retirement. Such a sad loss. She will be missed. **Sherrill Burton***
- *Thank you, Sonny: as ever, you speak for all of us. A beacon of light and love has been extinguished. **Peter Marshall***

- *I am very saddened - devastated in fact - by this news. She was always extremely kind to me - notwithstanding also chiding me often (always deserved) - and of course she was the great Commonwealth champion, erudite, eloquent and elegant in her interventions. **Stephen Chan***
- *So very sad . She was a great inspiration. I was reading her email exchange yesterday . She was active till the end. **Mohan Kaul***
- *Such a shock to hear this terrible news. Patsy was one of the Commonwealth's rocks and it will be hard to think of the Commonwealth without her. At the same time her passion and faith in the best of the Commonwealth was unwavering and infectious and her legacy gushes forth in the many tributes pouring in. I will always be grateful for Patsy's counsel, wisdom and friendship. **Arif Zaman***
- *I am so very sad to hear about Patsy. She was an indefatigable worker on behalf of the Commonwealth and an inspiration to all who worked with her - she always had time for fun and laughter as well as hard work. . She was consistently helpful to the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association and we were always grateful for her support. She will be particularly missed at this most difficult time for the Commonwealth. Thank you for sending the email address for her son. **Elizabeth Smith***
- *Deeply saddened to hear this shocking news. Patsy was so articulate and inspiring. Her unwavering enthusiasm to promote the Commonwealth was truly admirable. I shall miss her. **Shobhna Rattansi***
- *The saddest of news. But a life of integrity and grace to celebrate. **Sandra Pepera***
- *Very sad news to greet the morning in Australia. Like others have written, Patsy was a rock of the Commonwealth and inspirational to us all who had the privilege of working with her. And always a friendly face to greet us at the Association's AGM. With sadness, **Chris Bowman***
- *This is devastating news. It is very difficult to picture the Commonwealth's various organisations without Patsy - I knew her from the day I first entered the Commonwealth Secretariat and then of course we have all seen her as a driving force even after her formal retirement. May she rest in peace. **Raja Gomez***
- *Angela and I are devastated by this news. Patsy has been such a wonderful friend and an inspiration in the Commonwealth. I will never forget as a young student at Cambridge writing my thesis on the Commonwealth's role in Zimbabwe's independence she not only freely shared her insights but also gave me access to the relevant papers and a desk in the Public Affairs area of the Commonwealth to work from. Such always was her generosity and commitment to promoting the Commonwealth - and it got me in. She worked for the Commonwealth and its ideals as the moving spirit of our association to the end.*

*You may be gone Patsy but your spirit is with us. Our deepest condolences to her family and her dearly loved Commonwealth family. **Matthew and Angela***

- *I am very sorry to hear that Patsy is no longer with us as she embodied all I have valued about the Commonwealth. But let her passing not lead to her end of Commonwealth connections....could we create something within the Commonwealth to celebrate her wonderful contributions.....maybe name a room after her in the Secretariat, create a scholarship, or a special event during the year to mark her brilliant ways of making the Commonwealth matter? I welcome any thoughts you may all have. **Pera Wells***
- *Words are not enough! May your gentle soul rest in peace, dear Patsy. What a brilliant idea, Pera. Worthy of thought amidst our sadness. **Trudi Coleman***
- *Oh my God. This is devastating news. **Rudo Chitiga***
- *I guess I always assumed that as the years pass, the circle of friendship grows. How wrong I have been. Life has that cruel inevitability of ending, and so it feels as I progress down this journey called living, those friends I hold so dear, depart and another gaping void is left.*

Yet remembering this incredible woman - Patsy Blair Roberston - a true friend, I will not see it as an emptiness left but rather a place of encouragement, wisdom, kindness and laughter. This is what Patsy was to me. From St Elizabeth Parish in Jamaica, she was born when freedom from the colonial yoke was still decades away, and clearly from the wonderful heartfelt tributes I am reading, this woman became a legend in the Commonwealth family.

Patsy regaled me with her tales of laughter and cheeky nights around Broadway as a student in New York, hanging out with the Jamaican diaspora and native New Yorkers when she met and made friends with many in the gay community for the first time. Still criminalised of course, but Patsy was never one to judge and she most certainly was one who adored music, dancing and laughter!

***“If you're white, that's all right, if you're brown, stick around, but if you're black, get back”** – she laughed as she repeated this once again to me last Friday, the last time we spoke.*

Racism was something she faced her entire life. Blatantly at times, and more often in her career those subtle asides and attempted put-downs, trying to remind her that she was 'just' a black woman from Jamaica. Yet, these attributes were exactly Patsy's strengths. If only they had taken the time to find out...

I never worked directly with her. She was one of the first to congratulate me on being appointed Head of Public Affairs at the RCS under Stuart's leadership, and over that first sneaky glass of white wine, I knew a good soul when I saw it, and since then, we stayed in regular touch. She encouraged, chided when needed, and remained a

tower of support and strength. Indeed when I decided to return to do an MA at SOAS, I felt honoured that she not only encouraged me, but offered to be one of my referees.

Our chats were long – Patsy had so much to say (and I had much to ask!). Always inquisitive and curious to the world around her: our conversations could move from serious historical ‘behind-the-scenes’ stories of Kenneth Kaunda, Margaret Thatcher, PJ Patterson and the like, in the struggle for racial justice in South Africa, to tales of growing up in pre-independence Jamaica – the foods, the music, her beloved family, right through to her asking me to remember to email her the latest videos of Stormzy. How I will miss that roar of laughter when I called her a Grime Granny! She did not mind the ‘grime’ but a lady never wishes to allude to her age!!

Patsy always had her finger on the pulse, and despite her problems with breathing last week which both frightened and irritated her in equal measure, that spirit of youthfulness - always looking forward to tomorrow with hope - she maintained right up until the end for me.

But, this is what made her - decades older than me - a true friend. She had a real joy for life, she was impeccably honest and forthright, a source of inspiration but more than that, Patsy had become my first port of call when I desperately needed wise counsel and an opinion that would come from both the head and the heart. No stiff upper lip. No topics off-limit.

She lived in a racist world. She worked in a man’s world. She navigated both pernicious realities with grace, skill and a deep astuteness. And oh boy, did she thrive, manoeuvring through life with thoughtfulness, kindness and an innate sense of equality to all, from pauper to President. Patsy was one canny observer and she was an impeccable judge of character. She was also no fool, and without making enemies she stood up to those who tried to put her down or undermine her. This black woman from Jamaica was having none of it. Her outward beauty, glowing complexion, sartorial style and elegance, her immaculately coiffured lush hair, coupled with her sharp intellect, wit and warm smile, was formidable and firm. Yet always fair.

I will take others words that she embodied the Commonwealth. For me she simply embodied what is the best of humanity. Sagacious, kind, brave. Most of all, she always cared. Patsy you are a friend I am going to miss. I think we discussed every topic under the sun, and thanks to those many insights from you, I am a far better human today than when I first met you.

*Our hearts are filled with sadness, yet in my head I imagine joining every person across the Commonwealth standing in thankful and joyous ovation for having had the privilege of knowing her in our own unique and individual ways. Born in Jamaica. Died in London. Lived the Commonwealth. In paradisum deducant te angeli. In loving and eternal fond remembrance, **Nigel McCollum***

- *Patsy was not at the conception of the modern Commonwealth in 1949 but she was at its birth in July 1965 when its independent collective machinery, the Commonwealth Secretariat, was established by its then member governments. I met Patsy some nine months later when I joined the team in 1966 and we remained colleagues for almost 25 years thereafter until her retirement from Marlborough House.*

I remember Patsy as a true symbol of the modern Commonwealth who served the organization with passion and unflinching dedication during her many years in office at the Secretariat, and afterwards as a driving force at the Commonwealth Association of former Secretariat staff.

*By the passing of Patsy Robertson, the Commonwealth has lost a devotee who worked throughout with singular fervor to support its structures, and who never minced words in criticizing actions or pronouncements by governments that she perceived as undermining the principles and values that animate the modern Commonwealth. May her soul rest in peace. **Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)*

- *The shocking news about Patsy's passing is still sinking in and it is difficult to get over the inevitable feeling of sadness at this tragic event. But depression and grief must also give way to a sentiment of celebration -- of a life lived to the full in spite of personal setbacks and failing health towards the end, of so many other lives touched by her in a positive way, and of course of what she had done for and meant to the Commonwealth. She was in many ways a true embodiment of the Commonwealth and all that it stands for, and an inspiration to many of us in this Commassoc community. One only needs to look at the tributes that are already flooding in. May Patsy's soul rest in eternal peace. In sorrow and solidarity, **Amitav Banerji***
- *When I first became involved with the Commonwealth as a young man in 1979/80, Patsy already had many years of experience working there and her profound knowledge and deep commitment to all things Commonwealth was always evident.*

Patsy recognised the vital role of all Commonwealth organisations. In recent years I was privileged to work with her on the Ramphal Institute and she was present whenever any Commonwealth event took place. It will be very difficult to imagine future gatherings without her.

For me Patsy was truly an inspiration, above all for her support for social justice, for championing the rightful claims of developing countries, and for not mincing her words if it came to criticism of the actions of the British or any other Government- as evidenced in her most recent email correspondence with us all.

While we are sad at her passing, we should find appropriate ways of celebrating her outstanding life and contribution to the Commonwealth, whether through the

Ramphal Institute or otherwise. I will always remember her with much fondness.

Carl Wright

- *It is with deep sadness to learn of the passing of Patsy who was a friend and colleague since I joined the Secretariat in 1979. She was an embodiment of the Commonwealth in all aspects. Patsy was warm and hospitable and would always have time to have a friendly chat even in the last days. The tributes that have been made demonstrate her kindness and popularity. Our condolences to her family and may she rest in peace. **Rickie Sankar***
- *This is very sad news indeed. Patsy was always kind to me. We sometimes meet and greet each cordially other at Vauxhall Bridge Road. May her soul rest in peace and the love of God bring comfort to her family. Amen. **Nancy Jarrett***
- *I can but echo the words of Sir Shridath and others in recognition of the incalculable and unrivalled contribution Patsy made to the Commonwealth and its Secretariat for over half a century. She was unrivalled and there will never be another person of such stature. My deepest condolences go to her family. **Ian Thomas***
- *Thank you so much, Stuart, for letting us know so promptly of this sad news. And many thanks also to all those who have already written to the CA in that respect.*

It is inspiring to read these wonderful tributes to Patsy's life and work. But she herself was even more wonderful and inspiring than can be put into words; nothing short of an example to us all.

Our many memories of her kindness and her devotion to making a reality of the Commonwealth's magnificent potential will be with us always as a beacon of hope and encouragement.

*Sorrow is both real and sharp, of course, but I feel sure that the best way of honouring her is to re-dedicate ourselves to the values we share with her. It will be excellent to join together to celebrate her outstanding life. With all good wishes,
Terry Dormer*

- *I am shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden passing away of Patsy Robertson. I had known her since I joined the Secretariat in 1985. I admired her cheerfulness, energy, enthusiasm and total commitment to the Commonwealth. She was a role model. As the head of the Commonwealth Association, she led the organisation brilliantly. She was very active till the very end and would have contributed immensely to serving the causes she cherished, if not snatched away so abruptly. May her soul rest in peace. My heartfelt condolences to the family. **Gurudas Bailur***
- *How very sad indeed to learn that Patsy has succumbed to the cruel inevitability of death. Those of us who were privileged to have known and worked with her will attest to her humanity and integrity and it is fitting that the two longest serving 'foundation' Secretaries-General, Sir Sonny Ramphal and chief Anyaoku who worked*

closely with her, have written to pay tribute to her in recognition of the value of her service to the Commonwealth.

*Such was the esteem in which Patsy was held by members of Comassoc that they must feel bereft and will be saddened that she will not be physically present whenever, if at all, in future they gather for their annual meeting though she surely will be there in spirit! May her soul rest in peace. **Richard Nzerem***

- *I was also saddened to learn of the news of Patsy's sudden death. She was such an amazing supporter of the Commonwealth over so many years and was such a warm, kind, and inspiring person. She will be sorely missed. My condolences to her family.*

Jane Cole

- *I was shocked and deeply saddened to read of Patsy's passing and had expected to meet up with her on my return to the UK from the Caribbean. Patsy's boundless energy made her seem almost eternal.*

Patsy was charming, loyal, committed, determined and full of goodwill. She was an exceptional woman who brought her innate judgment, common sense and humanity to everything that she did. She believed that it was the moral imperative of our time to make the world a better place for all and to leave the world in a better state than we had found it. She was driven by a profound sense of social justice and empathy and she leaves to us all who cherish the values of equality an enormous legacy. She has made a long and outstanding contribution to public life not least of which has been in the cause of the Commonwealth. To paraphrase the national motto of Jamaica - out of many in the Commonwealth came one great Caribbean woman that we will always revere. She is in her own right one of the great Commonwealth citizens of our time.

Whenever my faith in the Commonwealth waned, Patsy was there as its indefatigable defender; a passionate and tireless advocate of the Commonwealth cause and of its values. She saw it as a great public good capable of doing little harm but a great deal of good in fostering political freedoms, peace, and prosperity. Its universal values made it as relevant today as it was in the fight against colonialism and racial injustice in which she played an instrumental role. We both lamented that it seemed to us that Caribbean leaders had lost faith in the Commonwealth providing a valuable voice to them to promote the challenges of small states and as a force for good in a troubled world. She has passed the baton to all of us to keep the Commonwealth flame alight in these darkest of times.

Rosie and I express our deepest condolences to her family, her friends and to you all as her former colleagues. Ecclesiastes brings us some comfort in these sad times:

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up. **Roy Rodriguez***

- *We are greatly saddened to learn of Patsy's death. We remember her with affection and with admiration for her principled stance on all matters Commonwealth. A spokesperson of great integrity. Our condolences to her family. **Steve and Leilani Packer***
- *Deeply saddened by the tragic news about Patsy. She was such a wonderful person. Really admired her commitment to the Commonwealth and cherished her friendship over many years. May she rest in peace. **KBK Rao***
- *Such heartbreaking news. Patsy and I became close friends after an unpromising start. I will miss the lunches with Patsy and Cheryl at her home or at her favorite restaurant in Soho. I greatly admired this feisty, brilliant, supremely articulate Jamaican woman who was not afraid to speak truth to power. Patsy was never one to run with the crowd and was uncompromising in facing down racists and bullies no matter what their rank or station in life. She also had a wicked sense of humor and sometimes used it to cut bigots off at the knees.*

*Everyone has rightly spoken of Patsy's commitment to the Commonwealth cause. In recent years I learned of her many kindnesses. A mutual friend told me only yesterday that she was only able to take up the offer of a place at UCL after Patsy stepped in to guarantee her student loan. To quote that friend: "a brilliant light has been snuffed out. Last of a kind...a kind of noble heroism shared by many of her age and time...service, excellence...hoping that a little of her mantle will envelop us". RIP Patsy Blair Robertson, daughter of her beloved Jamaica. Walk good. **Lorna McLaren***

- *I was shocked and deeply saddened to hear about Patsy's demise. The shock was all the more greater because the terrible news came as a bolt from the blue. I was privileged to be one of her closest colleagues for 19 years from 1978 when I joined her in the Secretariat's Information Division. Memories have been flooding back of that time, in particular our first meeting in Patsy's office in the East Wing of Marlborough.*

I was delighted to discover our mutual love of cricket. Knowing I was Indian, she recalled with pleasure how, as an 11-year-old schoolgirl she first saw India play in Kingston - and promptly developed a crush on one of its players, Deepak Shodhan! She told me that a hero of my youth and her fellow-Jamaican, Gerry Alexander, was a friend of her brother's. I saw Alexander, a Cambridge Blue and West Indies captain before Frank Worrell, in Delhi when he brought the West Indies to India and Pakistan in 1958-59 - a team which included a young Sobers, fresh from scoring the then highest Test score of 365 not out, against Pakistan. Three other members were Rohan Kanhai and the speedsters Hall and Gilchrist. To imagine Patsy's family connection with some of the West Indies' greatest cricketers through Gerry Alexander was utterly fascinating.

Patsy, I think, was only the third staff member of the Secretariat, which she joined at the invitation of the first Secretary-General Arnold Smith of Canada. In the many

tributes that have been flooding in, hardly anything has been said about the role she played in the creation of our Commonwealth Association, which will be one of her lasting legacies. What a shame the Coronavirus put paid to this year's AGM, which deprived many of us one last chance to see her again and to enjoy her wonderful company. **Asif Khan**

- *Ah PATSY! I felt a sensation of almost terror when I heard the news that Patsy had passed away. To me it is not passing away of a person; it is the passing away of an era. One of the most prominent qualities of Patsy was her love for the Commonwealth and the people of the Commonwealth. She was a most remarkable human being. Her dynamic personality, sharp wit, humour, love, warmth and affection were there for all. She was an outstanding leader and the central feature of her character was her deep and sincere love for the values of the Commonwealth. She was always very concerned about the plight of the poor and the suffering of humanity. God gifted her with many natural abilities such as intellect, stamina, perseverance and wisdom which she used for the benefit of humanity. She has left behind a legacy which will continue to enrich the world enormously. I met Patsy for the first time when I was a Fellow at the Commonwealth Institute in 1976. Later on, when I went back to Tanzania, she guided and encouraged me to establish the Tanzania Commonwealth Society. She helped me to produce materials and organise programmes on Teaching About the Commonwealth. In the mid-eighties, when I was posted to Tuvalu as the Commonwealth Field Expert, I was in regular contact with her and she was always extremely helpful.*

On my return to London, I remember the day when Dharani and I sat with her in a restaurant to discuss the establishment of Commonwealth Association. Thereafter, she totally dedicated herself to ensuring that Commonwealth Association delivers successfully and indeed it is continuing to do so.

More recently, she was a strong supporter of a Women's Organisation of our Community and we used to meet frequently. She was adored by all my family and she visited our home on several occasions. My children actually cried when they heard of her demise.

*As a tribute to her and her memorable services to the Commonwealth and humanity, wholeheartedly suggest that we should commend her for the Award of a Knighthood. That would perhaps be the humblest tribute to her for her great services to the Commonwealth and humanity. She was undoubtedly an exemplary embodiment of the Commonwealth. Long live Patsy and long live her beautiful legacies. **Sir Iftikhar Ayaz***

- *Saddened to hear of the death of Patsy Robertson, the Jamaican journalist, on August 18th at the age of 86. As the article says, she was Sir Shridath Ramphal's representative on earth. She was a woman of great elegance and grace, an extraordinary meticulous organiser. And forceful, she did not take no for an answer. Not enough is written about the late colonial Caribbean middle class, that social cohort which produced figures like the Taitts, Michael Gilkes in Guyana, Beryl*

*McBernie and Geoffrey Holder in Trinidad, the Honychurches in Dominica, the Williamses and Pilgrims in Barbados. Gilkes's play "The Last Red Man" is a kind of exploration of them. Patsy embodied one part of that continuum, with her careful manners and bourgeois style suggesting a colonial conservatism which masked a quiet but fiery nationalism, although she would never ever have used that language, which found expression in a creative ambition for excellence. She reminded me of my mother, and my mother's generation of Bishop Anstey girls in Trinidad-- in particular Esla Molineux -- in that she hated mediocrity, sloppiness, any loss of what she would have shamelessly called "standards". As a concrete example, she was, from London, a leader of the Georgian Society of Jamaica, which seeks to preserve and maintain Jamaica's historical buildings, monuments, artifacts, works of art, furniture and fixtures particularly those belonging to the Georgian Period (1720-1850). She was one of those almost invisible great spirits without whom our societies are so much less. It is painful, even shameful, to think of the emails I have from her in my inbox which I will now not have a chance to properly reply to. Go well Patsy. **Richard Drayton** (Guyanese Historian and Professor of History at King's College, London)*

- *"So sad Patsy Robertson has died. Tenacious, erudite and cultured. She had a deep love and understanding of the Commonwealth and Jamaica and helped to mobilise commonwealth opinion against Thatcher on Apartheid in South Africa. We owe her a great deal." **David Lammy** (Labour MP on Twitter)*
- *It is with deep sadness that I got to learn of Patsy Robinson's untimely demise whilst undergoing quarantine in Zimbabwe in connection with the repatriation from London of the body of my beloved affine mother following her succumbing to a cardiac arrest in London. I send my heartfelt condolences to Patsy Robinson's family at this very painful and trying period and pray that Providence of the Almighty grants the family the Fortitude that the family dearly needs to pass, unencumbered, through this rite of passage in the family's life. My memories of Patsy remain poignant - an indomitable voice of the Commonwealth for nearly all her life. Forever she embodies the epitome of a life that was unapologetically committed to the Commonwealth. To Patsy I pay my silent homage in the knowledge that as member of Commonwealth Association, she has left a void, a chasm and an emptiness that we as surviving members of the Association must strive to fill as we carry forward into the infinite future the flag of commonwealth-ness. May Patsy Robinson's soul rest in eternal peace. **Rogers W'O Okot-Uma***

Selected links:

- [Patsy Robertson obituary](#)
- [Patsy Robertson – An appreciation | The Round Table](#)
- [Patsy Robertson remembered for eloquence, competence, charm](#)

ADVOCATE KAREN MCKENZIE

(1965-2020)



Advocate Karen McKenzie joined as Human Rights Adviser in 2010 and was the Head of Human Rights from 2014-2020.

- *I knew Karen professionally and am saddened by this unexpected news. Please convey my deepest sympathies to her daughter and other members of her family.*

Lorna McLaren

- *Really sad and unexpected news.* **Richard Bourne**

Selected links:

[Rememberance book](#)