



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

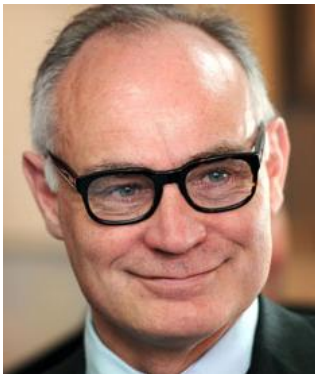
CPA UK LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES:

EQUALITY IN THE COMMONWEALTH: A SNAPSHOT OF THE LGBT RIGHTS

LANDSCAPE

24 APRIL 2013 | 1230-1345 | CPA ROOM

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Crispin Blunt MP (Conservative)

Crispin was born in 1960 and was educated at Wellington College and The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where he won the Queen's Medal, gaining a Regular Commission. He read Politics at the University of Durham and gained an MBA at Cranfield University School of Management.

In 1979, Crispin was commissioned as an Army Officer into the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) and served until 1990.

In May 1997, Crispin was elected to Parliament as Member for Reigate in Surrey. In July 1997 he was elected as Secretary of the Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Committee and the Conservative Middle East Council.

Iain Duncan Smith appointed him to the Opposition Front Bench as Shadow Minister for Northern Ireland in September 2001. In July 2002 he was appointed as deputy to Tim Yeo, where he had shadow ministerial responsibility for trade, energy and science. Crispin resigned this position in May 2003 but returned to the Conservative front bench as an Opposition Whip under Michael Howard.

He was Chairman of the Conservative Middle East Council from 2003 to 2008 and has served as an officer for the Conservative Parliamentary Friends of India.

In January 2009, Crispin was appointed to the Opposition Front Bench as a Shadow Home Affairs Minister with particular responsibility for Security and Counter-Terrorism by David Cameron.

Following the formation of the coalition, Crispin was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice. Crispin served as Minister responsible for Prisons and Probation until September 2012 before returning to the backbenches



Trevor Phillips OBE

Trevor is the former chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The Commission inherited the work of the previous equality commissions on disability, gender and race in October 2007 and also has responsibility for the new areas of age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, transgender and the promotion of human rights and good relations. Previously he was Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE).

Born in London in 1953, Trevor attended secondary school in Georgetown, Guyana, and studied chemistry at Imperial College London. Between 1978 and 1980, he was president of The National Union of Students. He then went into broadcasting, becoming Head of Current Affairs at LWT in 1992. Trevor received awards from the Royal Television Society in 1988, 1993 and 1998.

He was elected a member of the Greater London Authority in May 2000, and became chair of the London Assembly later that month.



Kapil Gupta

Kapil Gupta is a Researcher for the Human Dignity Trust, a London-based non-governmental organisation that helps local groups and individuals challenge the legality of laws that criminalise private consensual sexual activity between adults of the same sex, wherever those laws exist in the world.

Kapil completed his MA in Human Rights Practice under the Erasmus Mundus scholarship (2008-10) of the European Commission. He holds a Bachelor's degree in law from the National Law Institute University, Bhopal (India). He is currently an elected member of the EMA LGBTI Network where he holds the position of the Network Development Officer. He is also a member of the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association (CLA) and the Human Rights Lawyers' Association (HRLA).

CPA UK

Westminster Hall London SW1A 0AA

T: +44 (0)20 7219 5373 F: +44 (0)20 7233 1202 E: cpa@parliament.uk W: www.parliament.uk/cpauk

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