

# Secretary of State for Wales Addresses 4 Nations Civil Society Summit

**Wednesday 20 March: For immediate release**

**Leading civil society experts from across the UK will gather in Cardiff Bay on 21-22 March** to identify key shared priorities in this election year, and beyond. The Secretary of State for Wales, The Rt Hon David TC Davies MP, will confirm at the summit that the role of the voluntary sector is very important, and that civil society has a valued role to play in UK policy making and in connecting communities to decision makers.

This high-profile event is hosted by WCVA and the Wales Governance Centre, together with partners Human Rights Consortia in Northern Ireland and Scotland, and the Civil Society Alliance, and funded by the Legal Education Foundation.

Other key speakers will include Shadow Minister for Civil Society, Lilian Greenwood MP, alongside top academics, campaigners and charity leaders from Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales.

Recent years have seen charities respond to many of the most pressing crises facing the UK, such as the cost-of-living crisis or the impacts of COVID-19. With stretched capacity, a tight financial climate and pressing issues such as community cohesion and climate change, these Cardiff talks will be focused on how organisations can increasingly impact law and policy at Westminster. The summit will be a crucial opportunity for charity leaders to pool their expertise and insights, and to plan for future collaborations.

Expert contributors will also provide insight into the challenges and opportunities of bringing community voices from each of the four parts of the UK to debate developments at Westminster. This will include considering the operation of devolution, how charities engage with devolved and central decision makers, and debates and developments around constitutional reform.

**The Secretary of State for Wales, David TC Davies, said:** ‘The voluntary sector, community organisations and charities play a vital role here in Wales and across the UK.

‘Their commitment and contribution is highly valued by government and I was delighted to have the opportunity to speak at the summit and hear how individuals and groups make such an important contribution to our society.’

**Ruth Marks, Chief Executive of WCVA, said:** ‘We are delighted to welcome organisations from across all four parts of the UK to Wales and extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone for joining us for this event. This is a crucial time for the sector as we respond to new challenges and operate in a tight financial climate.

‘We hope these talks will help everyone involved – charities, academics, our partners and decision makers alike - to strengthen their relationships, generate ideas and work together on shared goals.’

#### **#4NationsCivilSociety**

\_\_Ends\_\_

#### **Contact:**

Carys Mair Thomas - [carys@carysmair.com](mailto:carys@carysmair.com)

07702096704

#### **Notes to editors:**

- This Civil Society 4 Nations conference is titled **Strengthening Civil Society Impact on Westminster in the Years ahead: sharing insights from across the UK**
- This conference is hosted by a group of organisations and projects - Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), Cardiff University’s Wales Governance Centre, the Civil Society Alliance, Human Rights Consortium (Northern Ireland) and Human Rights consortium Scotland. The event is funded by [The Legal Education Foundation](#).
- Spokespeople are available, including Ruth Marks and Matthew Brown from WCVA; Rosalind Stevens from the Civil Society Alliance; Kevin Hanratty from the Human Rights Consortium Northern Ireland, and Mhairi Snowden from the Human Rights Consortium Scotland.

- Free repro photographs available from Thursday afternoon.
- If you no longer wish to receive emails from our press list, please reply using the word STOP to [carys@carysmair.com](mailto:carys@carysmair.com)