

# Commonwealth- A Family

## Conflicts within the Commonwealth

The discussion on how the Commonwealth addressed conflict within its membership brought forward new ideas and research from the participants. The participants generally agreed that:

- The Commonwealth has been making consistent and strong efforts to resolve the conflicts, through its bodies, such as the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG);
- The Commonwealth has contributed to the stability and facilitated political progress in countries such as Cameroon, Fiji Islands, The Gambia, Guyana, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, and United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar);
- The successful interventions ended the internal conflict and apartheid in South Africa;
- The Commonwealth has been helpful in conflict prevention;
- The Commonwealth has promoted reconciliation, peace building efforts and justice;
- The Commonwealth has promoted and advocated the rule of law, and human rights for all;
- Women and children have been target of conflict between states and parties for years, subjecting them to assault, slavery, trafficking, prostitution and torture and therefore women need to be empowered to play a positive role in peace building process;
- The Commonwealth has come to aid for Lesotho, by facilitating dialogue and developing reforms for electoral system after the 1998 elections;
- The Commonwealth has not been able to stop or reduce civil wars, civil disputes and political tensions amongst and within its members.
- The Commonwealth has not been able to stop the conflict in Kashmir and has not been able to reduce the tension.

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