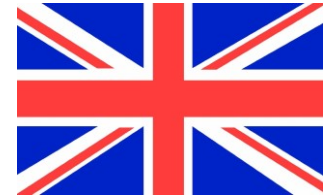




The United Kingdom *of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Acceded to the throne
6th February 1952

Pop: (2013) 63,136,000 Capital: London Area: 243,305 sq km

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 independent and equal sovereign states. It is home to 2.2 billion citizens, of which over 60% are under the age of 30.

The Commonwealth includes some of the world's largest, smallest, highest, lowest, richest and poorest countries spanning five regions. 31 of its members are small states, many of them island nations.

The Commonwealth Charter expresses the commitment of member states to the development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth. The Charter also acknowledges the role of civil society in supporting the goals and values of the Commonwealth.

There are also fourteen British Overseas Territories which belong either by settlement, conquest or annexation to the British Crown and two British Crown Dependencies. In the BCD of the Channel Islands the Queen is known as the Duke of Normandy and in the BCD of the Isle of Man she is known as Lord of Man.

