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# Press Release

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## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

### *Speaker Anġlu Farrugia launches the International Humanitarian Law Handbook during the CPC*

An International Law Handbook was launched by Speaker Anġlu Farrugia at the beginning of the 64<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) held in Kampala, Uganda, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, 2019. During his presentation, Speaker Farrugia stated that, in order for international humanitarian law to be effective during wartime, it must be properly implemented in times of peace. By placing limits on the actions to combatants in times of armed conflict, international humanitarian law helps to preserve a minimum of human dignity in otherwise dire situations.

This publication is designed to help ensure that parliamentarians can play an active and significant role in promoting and implementing international humanitarian law, taking into account the specific legal traditions, values and practices of the Commonwealth. In his conclusion, Speaker Farrugia thanked the British Red Cross for the collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and Professor Sarah Williams in their effort to put this material together.

Speaker Farrugia also met the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda in the margins of the CPC. Speaker Farrugia took the opportunity to thank Speaker Rebecca A. Kadaga for the excellent organisation of such an important conference. The main themes discussed during the bilateral meeting included parliamentary cooperation between Malta and Uganda, in particular the follow up to the Pan-African Conference held in June 2017, in relation to climate change and parliamentary initiatives, following the launch of the climate change toolkit for Small Branches of the CPA and the collaboration between parliaments in other fora besides the Commonwealth.