



THE · WEST · INDIA · COMMITTEE
PROFILE

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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The West India Committee (WIC), which was established in 1735, is the oldest body representative of the Commonwealth and its dependencies.

Founded by the Planters and Sugar Merchants of the West Indies at the zenith of the infamous ‘Triangle of Trade’, the WIC rapidly transformed its focus from compensating its members to developing initiatives for the policing of the abolition of the slave trade.

The WIC is committed, with its world-wide network of partners, to promote an ethos of social enterprise, corporate investment, industrial ecology and sustainable growth, promoting durable co-operation between the Caribbean and external partners.

As a Royal Charter institution with charitable status and an in depth understanding of the West Indies and its peoples, the WIC stands in a uniquely influential position from which, propelled by the strength of its history, it may serve the interests of West Indians throughout the world.



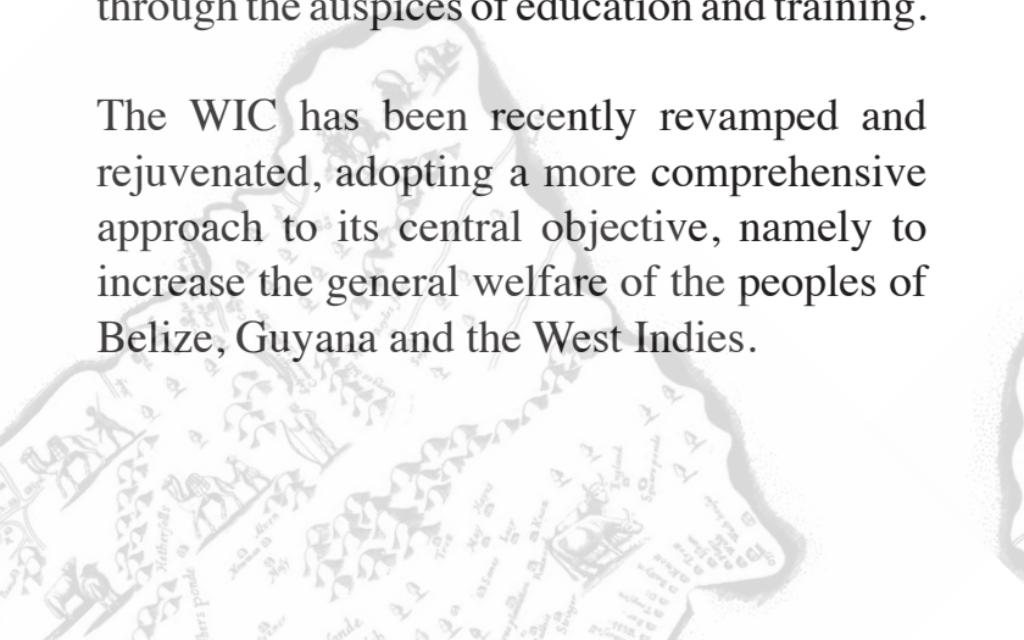
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE



INTRODUCTION

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE was founded in 1735 and is one of the oldest continuously active institutions and charities working in the Caribbean.

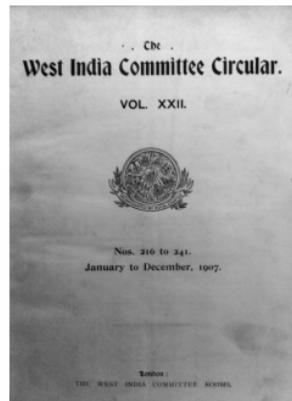
Over almost three hundred years the WIC has discreetly achieved many milestones in the development of the region; promoting trade, industry, manufacturing and agriculture through the auspices of education and training.



The WIC has been recently revamped and rejuvenated, adopting a more comprehensive approach to its central objective, namely to increase the general welfare of the peoples of Belize, Guyana and the West Indies.

THE WIC CIRCULAR

Throughout its history, the WIC published vast numbers of books and collected thousands of different publications. Together, these help paint a picture of West India history, heritage and commerce.



One of the WIC's longest running publications was The West India Committee Circular, originally starting off as a four page pamphlet, before quickly evolving into the definitive guide to commerce in the region.

Today, the WIC is proud to reintroduce this publication which, complimented by extensive online content, will offer readers an insight into contemporary West India affairs.





The West India Committee Boardroom



WHO WE ARE



OUR CHARITABLE OBJECT

The Object of the WIC is to promote the interests of:

- Agriculture;
- Manufacturing Industries;
- Trade

of the West Indies, Guyana and Belize and thus increase the general welfare of those territories.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to utilise the WIC in its capacity as both a charity and trading vehicle to develop new, bespoke strategies for the development and realisation of social entrepreneurial potential amongst West Indians. Supported through the development of sustainable education programmes, local skills and resources coupled with regional and international networks.



WIC VALUES

The WIC does not seek to become an aid agency, nor compete with regional Chambers of Commerce. Instead it seeks to:

- Motivate and inspire through the development of partnerships between the West Indies and the rest of the world in the context of education and training.
- Encourage and expand the pursuit of knowledge and comprehension of the region's heritage, both regionally and internationally.
- Provide a secure platform upon which new opportunities for agriculture, trade and manufacturing may be built, and both entrepreneurial and social enterprise may be developed.

WIC'S MILESTONES

1735	<i>Founding of WIC in London to protect trade in the British West Indies.</i>
1767	<i>Commissioning of Captain Bligh to introduce the breadfruit and mango to the West Indies to overcome food shortages.</i>
1798	<i>Founding of the London River Police, still in active service today and forerunners of the London Metropolitan Police.</i>
1802	<i>Instrumental in the building of the West India Docks in London, at the time the biggest brick building in the world.</i>
1833	<i>Key members of WIC supported His Majesty Ministers' plan for 'Emancipation of Slaves' by informing on the success of the Mexican model of free labour and produce.</i>
1847	<i>In Parliament, WIC lobbyists proposed a continental security force for Africa to protect against slave-trading and offering refuge to slaves from Spanish and Portuguese colonies.</i>
1948	<i>WIC supported the building of University of West Indies Chapel.</i>
1980	<i>Part of WIC's library acquired by the University of West Indies including some of the rarest books on the region.</i>

WIC

FACTS & FIGURES

Belize	
Area	22,966 km ² (8,867 sq mi)
Population	333,200
Density	15 /km ² (38 /sq mi)
Government	Parliamentary democracy and Constitutional monarchy
Time zone	UTC-6

The West Indies	
Area	2,754,000 km ² (1,063,000 sq mi)
Land area	229,681 km ² (92,541 sq mi)
Population	36,314,000
Density	151.5 /km ² (392 /sq mi)
Government	13 sovereign states 17 dependent territories
Time zone	UTC-5 to UTC-4

Guyana	
Area	214,970 km ² (83,000 sq mi)
Population	752,940
Density	3.502 /km ² (9.071 /sq mi)
Government	Semi-presidential republic
Time zone	UTC-4



WHERE TO FIND US

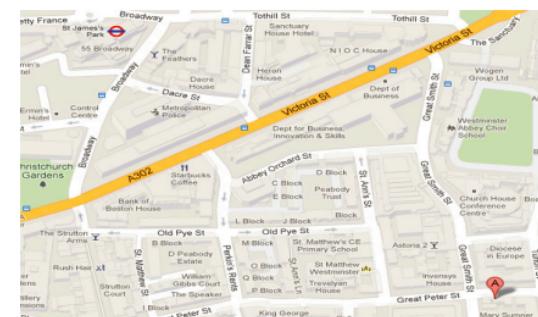


The WIC's iconic clock found in the West India Committee Rooms, Westminster, London.

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE of the Houses of Parliament and with the heart of Westminster on our doorstep, the West India Committee Rooms are ideally situated in the political epicenter of Great Britain.

Its signature clock, echoing the chimes of nearby Big Ben, and a growing library collection, the Boardroom offers comfort, space and an environment conducive to work and discussion.

The WIC can be found in Hope House on Great Peter Street, just off Millbank and situated a stone's throw from Westminster and St. James Park underground stations.



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