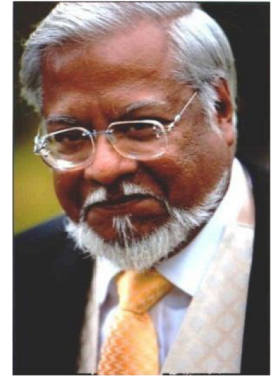


Nirj DEVA DL FRSA FMEP FMP

<https://www.nirjdeva.co.uk>

Publisher www.commonwealthunion.com The only Commonwealth wide media platform

Nirj Deva was born in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) to a business and political family. His grandfather was a Senator in the first independent Parliament and a prominent businessman. He was educated in England with a Degree in Aero Engineering, with a Post Graduate Research Fellowship in Economics. He was the first post-war non-white Conservative Member of Parliament (MP) in the British House of Commons (1992), the first Asian-born Member of the European Parliament (MEP); and the first nonwhite Deputy Lieutenant to be appointed (1984) . and is married to Indra, from Mauritius.



Nirj has been an active Member of the Conservative Party, for 48 years, holding various Party post since 1972 when as a student he contested a local Council seat in his University town.

Nirj Deva has served for 20 years as a Member and for 10 years as a Vice-President of the International Development Committee in the European Parliament, which oversees the EU Aid Budget, the largest in the world. He initiated and pioneered new legislation, turning grants into leveraged financial loans to developing countries, increasing the quantum available for lending 14 times over; bringing market disciplines into development finance. By doing so, he empowered hundreds of thousands of SMEs and entrepreneurs in developing countries.

*Bow Group
DTI/NCC
RCS
Anglo Asian
Con Soc*

- As Chairman of the Conservative Bow Group in 1981 Nirj Deva initiated the first Transatlantic Conferences with the Republican Party to strengthen UK-USA relations. He chaired the DTI/National Consumer Council Committee on "De-Regulating European Airlines", the Royal Commonwealth Society's Enquiry into the Brandt Commission and the Anglo Asian Conservative Society.

DL

- In 1985 at the age of 37 Nirj Deva became the first Asian born and youngest person to be appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the Lord Lieutenancy of Greater London.

In 1986 as Member of the National Committee he organised the 900th Anniversary of the Domesday Book for which HRH The Prince of Wales wrote the foreword to the Committee's Book of the Anniversary. In

NT Comm

1988 he helped to organise The National Maritime Museum 400th Anniversary of the Armada inaugurated by HRH Prince Wales. His company ran these Exhibitions successfully in collaboration with the national authorities.

MP

Nirj Deva broke the mould of British politics in 1992 by being the first non-white person to be elected to the House of Commons Conservative benches in post-colonial Britain, after being interviewed in more than 125 Parliamentary seats overcoming racial prejudice and breaking the glass ceiling. He went on to serve Britain in HM's Government as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Scottish Office. Breaking the glass ceiling as a role model, he has now empowered the election of 22 other non-white Conservative MPs to be elected the House of Commons.

MEP

In 1999 Nirj Deva broke the mould of European politics by being the first Asian born MEP elected to the European Parliament, showcasing the UK for her inclusiveness and has served for four consecutive terms as a MEP for Kent, Surrey, Berkshire, Sussex, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire representing 7 million people in the richest part of the EU.

He has spent over 25 years serving Britain in Parliament in Public Services; specifically on Trade, Consumer Affairs, Scottish Affairs, Foreign Affairs, International Development and Humanitarian Aid.

VP Comm

- In 2009 he was elected the Vice President of the European Parliament's Development Committee and is the Chairman of the Development Committee's Group B which has oversight and control of all EU spending in Asia.

*Chairman
Korean
Peninsula
Delegation*

- In 2014 he was elected as Chairman of the Parliamentary delegation for the Korean Peninsula. Since then, Nirj Deva MEP has engaged with senior figures in the governments of each respective member of the Six-Party talks, having held 60 meetings and accepting invitations to the Blue House in The Republic of Korea, the White House and State Department in the U.S, private bi-laterals in Beijing, and to Japan. Nirj Deva returned from Pyongyang after leading a European Parliament official delegation between 31 October - 2 November 2018, the first in a very long time. Mr. Deva held over 120 meetings with Senior Ministers, State Actors, Civil Society, and Chaired more than 20 hearings, conferences and inter-parliamentary meetings, seeking to

	assess the challenges to security in Northeast Asia and driving practical steps for a verifiable and irreversible denuclearization, leading to the end of the armistice and to a peace treaty.
ICC	○ Nirj Deva has strengthened the British contribution to international criminal law beyond the call of normal Parliamentary duty by drafting, tabling, and passing Resolutions in the European Parliament to provide financial assistance through the EU Aid Budget to the Special Courts in Sierra Leone and Arusha, providing funds to the ICC in the Hague and by his signal initiatives in passing Special Motions for Resolution on: The Indictment and bringing to Trail of Joseph Kony at the ICC, the Arrest of Charles Taylor, the promotion of human rights in Sudan and the indictment of Omar Bashir, the Situation in Darfur, human Rights in Burma, the Coup d' Etat in Fiji and the end to impunity in Africa. His support has been fundamental and essential to the proper working of the Special Courts and the ICC.
EU-India Friendship Group	○ As Founder Chairman of the EU-India Chamber of Commerce, Nirj Deva has held over 14 international conferences in the European Parliament and 20 special seminars to promote and strengthen EU-India cooperation.
UN	○ Nirj Deva's work on International Development led to his appointment as Co-Chair (with Michel Rocard former Prime Minister of France) of the European Parliament's Delegation to the United Nations World Summit and General Assembly in 2006.
UN Sec Gen	☒ Subsequently he was nominated for a brief time for the post of <u>Secretary General of the United Nations</u>, to succeed Kofi Annan, in 2006. He is now a personal friend of many African, Asian and Latin American Presidents and Ministers
Speaker of Parliament	☒ In 2012 he was nominated by his political group the ECR, 3rd largest in the Parliament to be its Candidate for <u>Speaker (President) of the European Parliament</u>, an extraordinary achievement for an Asian born MEP. He beat the Liberal candidate and came second to Martin Shultz who went onto challenge Angela Merkel for the Chancellorship of Germany.
Missions	○ Nirj Deva has gained recognition for the UK on a global level for his active participation on International Missions and conferences including Election Observer Missions to Afghanistan (2004, 2005), Indonesia (2003, 2006), Kazakhstan (2005, 2007), East Timor (2006), the Global Peace and Interfaith Values Forum (India 2005), UN Reform, the Heritage Foundation, Hudson Institute Washington (2006), the Foreign Relations Council New York (2006) and on EU China Relations in Beijing, Changchun, Shanghai and Chongqing (2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2012).
Legislation	Nirj Deva is recognized for the Legislation he has pioneered in the European Parliament. He has drafted legislative reports on: Nation Building - Post Conflict, SMEs in developing countries, Neglected Diseases and Poverty, Tourism and Development, the untying of aid, Social Aspects of globalisation and on Women & Poverty. His Own Initiative Legislative Reports, passed by the Parliament, are on: Effective Fight against corruption, the Exploitation of Children, ending Child Labour, transforming the European Investment Bank into a development bank, reforming the UN, promoting the Millennium Development Goals with Prof Jeffery Sachs and helping to fund "Quick Wins" and most recently Property Rights in International Development.
Private Sector and Development	○ Nirj Deva's report on the <i>Private Sector and Development</i>, adopted by the European Parliament plenary in April 2016, revolutionized EU development aid through a straightforward model: first, blend public, private, and charitable contributions; second, invest the funds under rigorous private-sector standards. As a result of this initiative, the European Commission has now launched an External Investment Plan (EIP) for Africa and the Neighbourhood expected to leverage at least EUR 66 billion in investments from financial institutions and private investors in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America. In future, the €20 billion (\$21.9 billion) in annual development funding provided by the EU could be leveraged to mobilize €300 billion of capital for the developing world, changing millions of people's lives for the better.
Africa	<u>In Africa</u>, Nirj Deva has distributed 3 million laptops in the "One Lap Top per Child" Initiative to the ACP countries. In his key role in the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Nirj Deva negotiated the resolution on the Future of the ACP-EU relations and WTO, the Cotonou Agreement and the reform of EU external aid, as well as the Everything But Arms partnership with Africa; in Cape



Africa

Town, 2002 chaired the negotiations on sustainable development. in Brussels 2005 negotiated an 11th hour compromise with the ACP side on Agricultural and mining commodities; in Vienna 2006 secured the adoption of the Deerpalsing-Deva report on 'The problematic of energy in the ACP countries'; in 2007 he was rapporteur on 'The impact of Foreign Direct Investment in ACP countries'; in 2005 he secured debt relief for developing countries and in 2013 he passed the reform of the Food Assistance Convention. His work in Africa reaches all across the continent, especially in countries like the Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, DRC, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, South Africa.

Asia

In Asia, Nirj Deva worked towards safeguarding Maternal Health, relieving the situation in Pakistan after the Floods, directing the EU 's Response to Fragile Nations, securing MDG Financing, defining the EU's Strategy with the Pacific Islands and directing the response to Climate Change in the Himalayan Glaciers. Between 2006 and 2009 Nirj worked to ensure that Aceh and Sri Lanka had immediate EU Aid for the tsunami victims and convened a series of Special and Emergency Committees in the European Parliament to coordinate the relief and reconstruction effort and, as Budget draftsman, to support the additional amount of 300 million Euros from the Flexibility instrument and 900 million Euros from the Development Budget. As Chairman of the EP Afghan Group, he has secured 800 million Euros in European aid. As Co-Chairman of the EU-India Chamber of Commerce, he worked to secure aid from the EU for the victims of the Gujarat earthquake and for computers in schools. As Chair of the EU-Bangladesh Friendship Group, he secured the Cooperation Agreement with the EU on sustainable economic and social development, the fight against poverty, the role of women and environmental protection. Nirj Deva's close cooperation and development activity in Asia has also impacted on countries such as: Indonesia, Korea, Burma, Maldives, Singapore, The Philippines, East Timor.

Honours

For his humanitarian work on the tsunami he was made an Hon Ambassador at Large and given the titles of "Vishwa Kirthi Sri Lanka Abhimani" by Sri Lanka and "Bharat Gaurav" by India. In 2011 he was honoured as a Knight of Merit by the Catholic Church for his services to International Development. In 2011, Nirj was voted MEP of the Year for International Development, by his fellow MEPs. In 2012, he was honoured by India's Priyadarshni Academy for global aid and development. In 2017, Nirj was awarded the GG2 Editor's Award for his outstanding contribution to British and ethnic minority communities in his 25 years of public service.



Commercial and Business Activities

Nirj Deva has successfully set up small businesses and taken a high-tech company from its infancy as Chairman on to the London AIM market. Currently he runs the only Commonwealth wide media and TV platform viewed by more than 10 million people per quarter, , he is a non-Executive Director of 2 Forbes 300 Companies and 2 other large regional Companies with a work force of over 300,000 people. Previously to being elected to the House of Commons he had been the Advisor to several FTSE 500 companies. Between 1987 and 1992 when he was elected to the House of Commons, he was the Advisor to the Board of EDF (Electronic Data Systems Corporation run by Ross Perot), Rothmans PLC, United Greenfields PLC, Tricentrol Oil Company, John Laings PLC, Hudson Place Investments PLC, Air Europe and the Airlines of Europe Group.

Others

Nirj Deva is the President of the International Committee on Human Dignity and the Chairman of the Right Approach Group and Mises Circle. As Chairman of the Afghan Group he drafted the Constitution of the National Reconciliation Party of Afghanistan and chaired the Annual Conference on "Ethics in Business" for the 5th time in 2012, the TED Conference - "Burn the Box" and the EU India Chamber of Commerce Forum for the 6th consecutive year. Nirj is part of the [World Culture Festival](#), Organising and Invitation Committee, Berlin and Delhi, which in 2016 gathered 4 million people in Delhi to celebrate cultural diversity and the [Art of Living's](#) 35 years of existence. He is a Member of the Steering Committee for a History to be entitled *The Reign of King George II (1727-1760)*, for which His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG is The Royal Patron.

Videolink Rome Conference

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy5c8Dq_cWY



Debating Martin Schultz during my candidacy for President of the European Parliament



Discussing peace between Israel and Palestine with Tony Blair



Discussing the Singapore model with Lee Kuan Yew, first Prime Minister of Singapore



Discussing global health with Bill Gates



Panel with Muhammad El-Senussi on the removal of Gaddafi



Discussing humanitarian aid with Bono after Nirj legislated his report on international development



With wife, Indra, at campaign launch to be European Parliament President



Meeting with Dr Supachai Panichpakdi, former Director-General of the WTO



Conversing with first Chancellor of reunified Germany, Helmut Kohl



In audience with Pope Benedict XVI



In audience with Pope John Paul II



Discussion with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



Martti Ahtisaari, Nobel Laureate



Wu Bangguo, Chinese Chief Legislator



Conversation with Angela Merkel



Nirj hosting President Tokayev at his home in Brussels



PROTECTING WESTMINSTER

Nirj has always supported a referendum on Britain's EU membership



Margaret Thatcher and Nirj Deva at a formal dinner



Meeting Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her residence



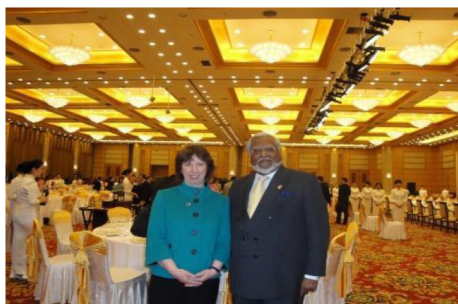
With the first President of Nepal, Ram Baran Yadav



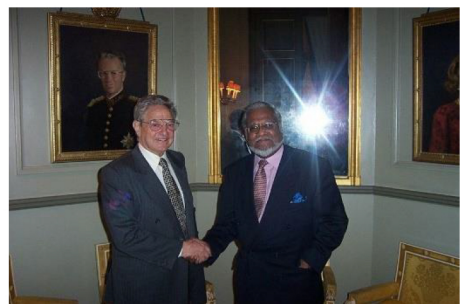
Discussing Pakistan with the Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi



Nirj, who contested Ban Ki Moon for Secretary-General of the UN, congratulating him on his victory



At a dinner with Baroness Ashton



Discussing new instruments for financing development with George Soros



Discussing the London Olympic bid with Jacques Rogge, former IOC President



With actor Jet Li at a charity fundraiser



Discussing reconciliation in Sri Lanka with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and the British High Commissioner



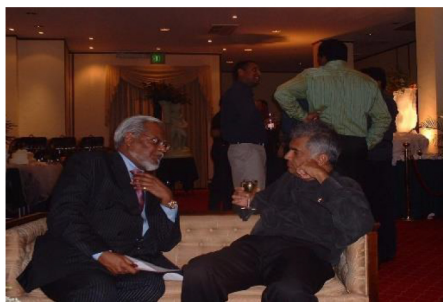
Discussing development with Kofi Annan



Nirj with Luis Moreno Ocampo, former prosecutor at the ICC



Former Prime Minister of Mauritius, Navin Ramgoolan



With Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe



Discussing the need to promote democracy with the Indian President



Former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo



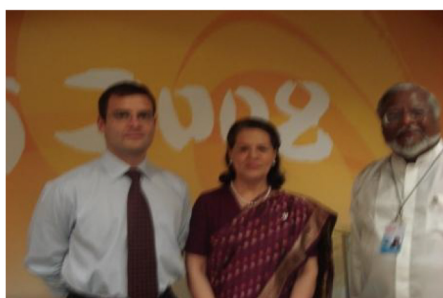
Former President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev



President Gus Dur of Indonesia



Former President of East Timor, Jose Ramos-Horta, thanking Britain for assistance given to East Timor



With Sonia and Rahul Gandhi



Promoting Indian investment to the South East of England, in a discussion with the Indian Minister of Industry



With current Sri Lankan Presidential candidate, Sajith Premadasa



C. Boyden Gray, the former US Ambassador to the EU, for dinner at Nirj's house



With Cardinal Martino receiving the Knight of Merit with Star decoration



With former Prime Minister of Slovenia, Alojz Peterle



Nirj with his wife, son and former President Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka



With former German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder



With the then US Ambassador to the UN, John Bolton



With United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Sam Brownback



With Richard Branson and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka



With US Congressman James Sensebrenner



With the former Deputy Foreign Minister Of China at the European Parliament



With Boris Johnson Prime Minister



As Deputy Lieutenant Lord Lieutenantcy of Gt London



With The Late Queen



With King Charles III



With President Nasheed of the Maldives



With Shashi Tharoor Indian Statesman



With Prime Minister Modi

