

A portrait of Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, a woman with short dark curly hair, smiling and looking off to the side. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a light-colored top and a pearl necklace. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with stone steps and railings.

**Senator
the Honourable**

**KAMINA
JOHNSON
SMITH**

**Minister of
Foreign Affairs
& Foreign Trade
of Jamaica**

**Candidate for
Secretary-General
of the Commonwealth
2022**

Political Vision & Pursuits

Minister Johnson Smith passionately believes that in an interconnected and inter-dependent world, there are great possibilities for global development. Recognizing that no country can achieve its development goals without cooperating with others, she is committed to playing her part in the realization of those possibilities. As a national, resident and representative of a small island developing state, the Minister is also keenly aware that, countries at varying stages of development can work together effectively through Triangular, North-South and South-South cooperation. She is a strong advocate for the use of a range of multilateral approaches in finding solutions to the challenges that beset the world, and furthermore believes that breakthroughs in many of the world's most pressing issues, will depend fundamentally on multilateral collaborative efforts.

She is Jamaica's first female Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and was re-appointed for a second term on 7th September 2020, following re-election of her Party to office. She was also concurrently re-appointed Leader of Government Business in the Senate and Chair of several Senate Committees. Within Cabinet, Minister Johnson Smith chairs the International Relations Sub-Committee, is a member of the Economic Growth and Job Creation Sub-Committee, and is also a member of Jamaica's National Security Council.

Ministerial Leadership

As Foreign Minister, Senator Johnson Smith has consistently re-affirmed Jamaica's commitment to a principle-based foreign policy, ensuring that it is pursued in alignment with the country's national development goals and its responsibility as a good global citizen. She has represented her country and the Caribbean region at numerous bilateral, regional, hemispheric and international fora across Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean, and Europe.

Her leadership roles as Foreign Minister have included chairmanship of the CARIFORUM group, in which capacity she led the opening of discussions with the UK on post-Brexit trade arrangements. She also served as President of the ACP Council of Ministers in 2018, presiding over the process which secured the negotiating mandate of the ACP for a post-Cotonou Agreement with the EU. In the same year, she also chaired the CARICOM Council of Foreign Ministers and attended G20 and G7 meetings, the latter being the first for a Jamaican Foreign Minister. In 2021 Minister Johnson Smith chaired the CARICOM Council on Trade and Economic Development, and since March 2019 Jamaica has been the ACP Coordinator within the WTO, a role headed by Minister Johnson Smith. She is a member of the recently launched EU-LAC Foundation Women's Network.

Minister Johnson Smith oversaw the further expansion of the mandate of the Foreign Ministry beyond traditional areas of focus, to include promulgation of a National Foreign Trade Policy and Action Plan; the creation of an Economic Diplomacy Programme in

conjunction with Jamaica's Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (JAMPRO); expanded and re-engaged the Honorary Consular Network and repositioned its role in the promotion of bilateral business opportunities; promulgated a Consular Manual to improve service delivery to citizens overseas; expanded the number of countries with which Jamaica has established diplomatic relations, and strengthened relations with both traditional and non-traditional bilateral partners; presided over two Biennial Diaspora Conferences, Diaspora consultations and engagements in 14 countries; tabled a National Diaspora Policy as a Green Paper and established the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council and the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council as tools for deeper engagement and building of partnerships across all Continents of the world.

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, she established and chaired the National External Support Coordination Committee to ensure effective coordination, alignment, oversight and accountability for bilateral and international donations in support of the Government's response to the pandemic.



Senatorial Achievements

As Leader of Government Business in the Senate, in her first term of office, she led over 110 debates including the passage of 69 Statutes and 48 Resolutions across government portfolios - ranging from the establishment of frameworks to curb the country's high crime rate; reforms to the justice system and the fight against human trafficking; the strengthening of laws addressing AML/CFT frameworks; the modernization of corporate, partnership and trust laws, as well as intellectual property frameworks; Data Protection; Public Procurement; Road Safety; Building and Land Titling. She has also served on Joint Select Committees reviewing laws related to violence against women and children, reform of the anti-corruption institutional framework in Jamaica, reform of Jamaica's Customs law and the law to establish the independence of the Central Bank.

Ministerial Management Oversight

With the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade having relocated during her tenure as Minister, to a more functional multi-purpose building as its permanent home in downtown Kingston, the Minister has formally initiated a strategic review of the Foreign Ministry and the establishment of a Foreign Service Institute – both processes designed to ensure that the Ministry is better able to advance Jamaica's national and global development goals.

Education and Prior Professional Experience

Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith is an Attorney-at-Law who worked in private practice for 17 years including 13 at Cable & Wireless Jamaica where she held roles including In-House Counsel, Vice-President Legal and Corporate Secretary. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in French from The University of the West Indies (Mona) as well as a Bachelor of Laws Degree also from The University of the West Indies (Cave Hill). Thereafter, she pursued graduate studies at the Norman Manley Law School where she was Valedictorian and the recipient of awards in Legal Remedies and Advocacy. She later attained a Master of Laws Degree in Commercial Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Highly committed to public service and volunteerism, the Minister has served various philanthropic organizations in different capacities. She also served on the Corporate Governance Committee of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) for several years, a Director of the Factories Corporation of Jamaica and the Early Childhood Commission.

Minister Johnson Smith, was born in St. Andrew, Jamaica, is married and speaks French as a foreign language.



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I believe in Our Commonwealth

Our 54 countries, our 2.5 billion people, the strength and beauty of our cultural, ethnic, religious and geographic diversities; the great value and collective potential of our resources, both human and natural. I believe in our shared democratic principles and our ability in this multipolar world, to leverage the tremendous potential of our Shared Commitment, Shared Connections and Shared Consensus, for the good of our peoples.

**Join me on this journey to secure greater shared prosperity for
our Commonwealth family of Nations**

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KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH
Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade of Jamaica