

Executive Director: Stephen Wordsworth

Stephen has been Executive Director of Cara since 2012. In recent years he has also held a number of voluntary positions, including Vice Chair of the New York-based [Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack](#), a grouping of UN agencies and NGOs set up in 2010 to draw attention to attacks on educational institutions, their students, and staff in countries affected by conflict and insecurity (2012-20); a Trustee of the [British and Foreign School Society](#), a UK educational charity which funds projects worldwide (2013-2019); and a Trustee of the [Slynn Foundation](#), a UK charity which works with senior judges and justice institutions around the world to improve justice systems and the rule of law and to enhance professional understanding of human rights, mediation and European Union law and practice (2014-21). He also served as a parish councillor in his home village, 2012-2021.

Before joining Cara, Stephen was a career member of the UK Diplomatic Service, where his last two posts were as Deputy Head of Mission in Moscow (2003-2005) and British Ambassador in Belgrade (2006-2010). He had previously served abroad in Moscow during the Soviet period (1979-81), in Nigeria (1983-86), in Germany during unification (1990-1994) and as Political Adviser to the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe in Mons, Belgium (1994-1998) during the Bosnia operation and the development of NATO's 'Partnership for Peace'. His London jobs included being Section Head for East Germany and Berlin 1988-90, at the time the Berlin Wall came down, and Head of Department for the Western Balkans 1999-2002, in the turbulent period that followed the Kosovo crisis, including the overthrow of the Serbian dictator Milošević.

He originally graduated in Modern Languages (German and Russian) from the University of Cambridge. He holds an Honorary Doctorate of Liberal Arts from the University of Abertay Dundee (2014), the degree of Doctor *honoris causa* from the University of Edinburgh (2024), the UK awards of Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO, 1992) and Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG, 2011), and the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In March 2022 Stephen was appointed Chancellor of Cardiff Metropolitan University.