



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FCO Press Release: Honours for the best of Britain overseas

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) announces 86 awards for Britons in recognition of their exceptional service to Britain overseas.

The Diplomatic Service and Overseas New Year 2015 Honours List recognises extraordinary people in a range of fields.

The actress Joan Collins receives a Damehood (DBE) for her charitable work and philanthropy, Professor Anne Mills, receives a CBE for services to international health, Robin Moseley receives an OBE for services to children with dyslexia and Val Jourdan gets an MBE for services to improving the lives of disabled children in the West Bank.

Peter Asher and Dr Thomas Johnston are amongst those recognised for promoting British business and trade, receiving CBEs for their contributions to British music and manufacturing industries.

Sir Simon Fraser, Head of the Diplomatic Service, said:

"I am delighted to see so many people recognised for their outstanding work in promoting our country overseas in the New Year 2015 Honours list. These are people who make a real difference to peoples' lives at home and overseas and their awards are well deserved".

The full list is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/honours/honours-lists>

Joan Henrietta Collins OBE

Philanthropist and charity campaigner. For services to charity

Joan Collins has made a very substantial, tireless and sustained contribution to charity, charitable fundraising and advocacy. Using her global profile as a strong campaign base, she has been raising multiple causes at the highest levels and raising very significant funds for many charities as well as giving much in personal time and donations. She has been the Patron of several charitable organisations including the International Foundation for Children with Learning Disabilities, Action for Sick Children, Brainbox and the Shooting Star / Chase Children's Hospice. She is a passionate supporter of women's issues and has contributed significantly to breast cancer awareness as well as supporting foster children in India and supporting many more charities such as the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, the Cauldwell's Childrens Trust, the Princes Trust, the Alzheimer's Association and the Bid to Beat Aids.

On learning of her award, Joan Collins said *"I am deeply honoured by this award. It is humbling to receive this level of recognition from my Queen and country, and I am truly thrilled and grateful."*

(Enid) Valerie Jourdan

Founder, Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability (ABCD), Palestinian Territories. For services to improving the lives of disabled children in the West Bank.

Val Jourdan, a qualified physiotherapist, took a year's sabbatical in Bethlehem in 1983 to help treat physically and mentally handicapped children on the West Bank and Gaza as part of the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR). Profoundly influenced by her experience she returned to

Bethlehem determined to set up an organisation dedicated to supporting and paying salaried young Palestinian women who had dependent disabled children. It would be non-political and its objective would be to bring help to children with physical and mental difficulties alongside support for their families. She formed Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability (ABCD) in 1986. ABCD's community rehabilitation centres have had a significant impact on disabled children, their families and the community, with over 10,000 children and young adults benefitting from the care of BASR and the Day Centres instigated by ABCD.

Other Recipients on the list include:

Professor Fiona Elizabeth MURRAY

Professor of Entrepreneurship and Associate Dean of Innovation . Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Awarded a CBE for services to entrepreneurship and innovation.

As an internationally recognised expert, Professor Murray uses her research into entrepreneurship and innovation to benefit both public and private sectors. She has been instrumental in bringing MIT and her own expertise to bear in Britain. A great deal of her research works to improve the UK's entrepreneurial community, which has led to improved trade and investment opportunities between the UK and USA. Her commitment to developing the next generation of innovative leaders that will have a positive impact in the world has led her to be invited to join the Prime Minister's Council on Science and Technology.

On learning of her award Professor Murray said: *"I am honoured and truly delighted. It is a privilege for me to return to Britain on a regular basis, bringing home what I have learned in Boston and at MIT, to play a role in helping shape the future prosperity of our country through entrepreneurship and innovation."*

Heather SUKSEM

Regional Chief Executive for OCS ROH Limited receives an OBE for services to British interests, the community and charitable interests in Thailand.

Heather Suksem has worked for Property Care Services, part of the OCS Group for many years. Her business and community work have singled her out as a role model, championing the importance of corporate social responsibility while supporting wider UK interests in Thailand and the region. Her work within the wider society involves campaigning against the exploitation of children and providing work on reaching employment age for those affected.

She has also worked hard to secure educational opportunities for underprivileged children through scholarships and support for schools provided via the PCS Foundation - a non-profit organisation set up to channel OCS's work for charities and local communities. Heather is also a strong advocate for those affected by HIV/AIDS. She is active in supporting education programmes aimed at preventing people from contracting HIV/AIDS and in helping children who have been orphaned as a result of the disease. She also supports a foundation which provides a safe refuge for women and children who have been neglected, abused or abandoned.

On learning of her award Heather Suksem said, *"I was overwhelmed to hear of the award and am very proud to be honoured in this way. Supporting the society in which we work, especially protecting and supporting children, is an integral part of the OCS and PCS culture ,which resulted in the formation of our PCS Foundation, by our late Chairman, Mr Liam Ayudhkij"*

Robert GRACE

Regional President, Jaguar Land Rover, China receives an OBE for services to the Automotive industry and to promoting British trade in China.

Bob Grace, originally from Coventry himself, has steered Jaguar Land Rover China's contribution to UK exports to China through a spectacular period of growth, with China overtaking Britain to become Jaguar Land Rover China's largest market. The strong trade relationship between China and the UK

forged under Bob Grace's leadership helps support more than 30,000 jobs in Jaguar Land Rover UK, a number which has grown significantly in a short period of time as a result. Also under Bob's direction, JLR has gained a strong reputation for supporting charities and investing in sustainable projects with long term impact, such as apprenticeship training and sponsorship of British arts in China.

On receiving news of his award Robert Grace said: *"It's been a privilege to lead the Jaguar Land Rover business here in China. I am indebted to the trust placed in me, to my great Jaguar Land Rover China team, the values passed to me by my parents, and the strong support of my wife Veronica and my five kids"*.

Elkhidir Daloum Mahmoud AHMED

Former Regional Director for Latin America, Caribbean and Middle East, Save the Children receives an MBE for services to the protection of children in Africa.

For 21 years Elkhidir has made an exceptional contribution to the work of Save the Children. His enthusiasm, hard work, commitment and compassion over many years as Programme Manager/ Country Director for Somalia and as Regional Advocacy & Institutional Relations Manager based in Nairobi have been an inspiration. His foresight and initiative to prepare staff in the region for the deterioration in the war in Somalia was successful, as was his initiative to train the African Peace-Keeping Forces in their home countries on vital aspects of child protection before they were deployed on missions. He is a passionate advocate for child rights and his achievements have contributed to the saving, and improving of the quality, of children's lives, whilst enhancing the reputation and effectiveness of Save the Children.

On hearing the news of his award, Elkhidir Daloum Mahmoud Ahmed: *"I am very honoured and privileged that I have been recognised by Her Majesty's government. Everything that I have done for the compelling cause of children would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of my outstanding colleagues as well as the invaluable support from my wife and daughters"*.

Notes for editors:

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