



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

## FCO Press Release: Honours for the best of Britain overseas

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) announces 76 awards for Britons in recognition of exceptional service to Britain overseas.

The Diplomatic Service and Overseas New Year 2017 Honours List recognises extraordinary people in a range of fields overseas including voluntary and charitable work, education, health, assistance to British nationals overseas, the arts and conservation.

Awards go to Professor Jane **FRANCIS**, Director of the British Antarctic Survey, who receives a DCMG for her services to UK polar science and diplomacy. Anna **WINTOUR** OBE, Editor-in-chief, American Vogue, receives a DBE for her services to fashion and journalism. The Architect, David **ADJAYE** OBE and Dr Jeffrey **TATE** CBE, Chief Conductor of the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, each receive a Knight Bachelor.

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

“Congratulations to everyone honoured today for their outstanding service to the UK overseas. They have all worked hard; their awards are richly deserved.”

Other recipients receiving honours for their work overseas include:

### **Akuja de GARANG**

Team Leader for Girls Education, South Sudan receives an MBE for services to the promotion of girls' education and social development in South Sudan

Akuja de Garang is recognised for the significant contribution she has made to the development of the world's newest country, South Sudan, the country of her birth. She returned in 2004 and since then has strived to improve the state of a number of sectors, including child protection, human rights, youth participation, health and education. Most recently, as Team Leader of Girls' Education South Sudan (GESS), an innovative and complex programme tackling barriers to girls' education in the country, she has been instrumental in the success of the project in reaching over 180,000 girls and providing them with cash grants, to keep them enrolled up to the end of secondary school. She is also a conflict management, humanitarian and development expert with extensive project management experience and has worked in Sudan, Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Kenya, UK and South Sudan.

On learning of her award Akuja de Garang said “This is wonderful. More so for the GESS programme and the people of South Sudan.”

### **Lynda Catherine GOULD**

Co-Founder Butterfly Children's Hospices, China receives an MBE for her services to the provision of palliative care to babies and infants in China

Lyn Gould has been working in China on a voluntary basis for the last 30 years. In 2004 she took early retirement so that she could set up and run a hospice in China specifically to provide palliative care to babies and children who have life threatening illnesses or are close to death. She co-founded ChinaKidz, which later became Butterfly Children's Hospices. The first of two Butterfly Hospices opened in 2010 in Changsha and the second, later, in Nanjing. The aim of the Hospices is to set the standard for palliative care services for children in China through leadership by example, quality of care given, collaboration, advocacy and education. Her contribution to the care and treatment of those who have passed through her hospices is outstanding.

On learning of her award Lynda Gould said "I am truly grateful that our work has been recognised in this way. My childhood dream to help children in China has become a reality I could never have imagined. As we educate, train and support new initiatives it is our aim that all children and their families will have the care and support they need."

### **Paul GUERIN**

Country Director, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Burma receives an OBE for services to promoting fair and democratic elections in Burma

Paul Guerin, from London, is the Country Director in Burma for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). In 2015, in the run-up to Burma's first democratic elections in over 50 years, he was a key figure in the International Community's support to those elections. He was responsible for the essential technical and political reforms that were required in advance of polling day. That the elections were recognised as so successful is due in no small part to Paul's hard work and perseverance. Paul's work in Burma is the culmination of over 20 years dedicated to promoting democracy. Highlights of his career include providing long-term technical assistance to electoral management bodies in Indonesia 2003-4, East Timor 2001, Tanzania 2000, Cambodia 1998, Croatia 1997, Bosnia and Herzegovina 1996, South Africa and Mozambique in 1994 and organising historic elections in Cambodia in 1993 and the popular consultation in East Timor in 1999.

On learning of his award Paul Guerin said "I am deeply honoured to receive this award and it has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated people who contributed to Burma's historic elections. I would also like to pay tribute to the Burmese people whose perseverance and hope is an inspiration to all of us."

### **Colonel Michael John WINARICK**

Honorary Treasurer, The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League receives an OBE for his services to Commonwealth veterans who have served in the British armed forces

After a career of over 30 years in the British Army, Michael Winarick has dedicated the last 11 years to serving pre-independence Commonwealth veterans and widows around the world. When he took over as Honorary Treasurer in 2005, the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League had an expected financial life of just 10 years. However, since then, through his skill and leadership, he has managed the charity's capital so well and ensured its growth that it survived the financial crash of 2008 and he has safeguarded its funds to ensure that it remains able to assist the many thousands of veterans and widows in over 50 countries to live their lives with dignity. His guidance also allowed the charity to deliver relief after natural disasters like the earthquakes in Pakistan, floods in India and hurricanes in the

Caribbean. As he retires as Honorary Treasurer it is to his credit that he leaves the charity in such a healthy position that its financial life has been extended well into the future meaning that they will be able to help many more desperately poor and vulnerable people.

On learning of his award Michael Winarick said “It has been a privilege to play a small part in supporting our Commonwealth Veterans. Those who fought for the Crown and who now face their hour of greatest need, deserve the very best we can offer. For me, the past 11 years has proven to be a very humbling experience.”

**Notes for editors:**

For further information about the case studies or to arrange an **interview** please contact the FCO Press Office on 020 7008 3100.

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