



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) announces 78 awards for Britons in recognition of truly exceptional and outstanding service to Britain internationally and overseas.

The Diplomatic Service and Overseas Birthday 2017 Honours List recognises extraordinary people in a range of fields overseas including voluntary and charitable work, education, human rights, science and scientific research, security, sustainable development, veterans, health, assistance to British nationals overseas, the arts and conservation.

Of particular note are:

93 year old Peter **BICKMORE** receives a British Empire Medal for the second time, this time for his work commemorating Adriatic Campaign in World War II, nearly 75 years after he first received this honour for his military service in the War.

Other awards go to Barbara **FROST**, former Chief Executive of WaterAid, who receives a DBE for her services to the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene in developing countries. Kathleen **REES**, Chief Executive Officer at the Haven in Wolverhampton receives an MBE for services to the protection of women and child victims of domestic violence in the West Midlands and overseas. Annabel **MEHTA**, President of non-governmental organisation Apnalaya, also receives an MBE for services to the community and under privileged in Mumbai, India. The chairman of Westfield Corporation, Frank **LOWY** AC, and Trevor **PEARS** CMG of the Pears Family Charitable Organisation are both appointed Knight Bachelor.

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

“Congratulations to everyone receiving honours today. In many imaginative and dedicated ways, recipients have shown outstanding service to the UK overseas and thoroughly deserved their reward.”

### Notes for editors:

Case studies of recipients from this honours list:

#### **Christine CHINKIN**

Director, Centre for Women, Peace and Security at the London School of Economics and Political Science, receives a CMG for services to advancing women’s human rights worldwide

Christine Chinkin is the Director at the Centre for Women, Peace and Security at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is a highly distinguished international lawyer and academic who, over the last 40 years, has made a significant contribution to advancing the understanding and implementation of women's human rights by the international community. She founded the Centre for Women, Peace and Security at the LSE, the UK's first academic centre of its kind. She has also provided highly valued advice and support to the Special Representatives on the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative on the development of government policy and has been instrumental in ensuring the work of the UK in this area is robust and credible.

On learning of her award Christine Chinkin said "I am especially pleased that the award recognises the importance of the Centre for Women Peace and Security and its work towards addressing women's subordination worldwide and preventing and combating the global scourge of violence against women."

### **Peter Bickmore BEM**

Organiser, British Veterans of Vis, Croatia, receives a British Empire Medal (Civilian Division) for services to the commemoration of the Adriatic Campaign in World War II

Peter Bickmore, now 93 years of age, has been at the heart of remembering and supporting British veterans of the island of Vis (Croatia) since 1983 when, together with a small group of veterans, he was first allowed access to return to the island. 40 years earlier, at the age of 19, Able Seaman Bickmore was deployed to the British Operating Base on the island of Vis to serve with Royal Navy Coastal Forces during World War II for which his service during rescue work on an enemy Raid on the Port of Bari (Italy) was recognised in 1944 with a British Empire Medal (Military Division). In order to commemorate the friends and comrades lost during this campaign, for the last 35 years Peter has tirelessly and voluntarily organised an annual reunion and ceremony of remembrance for British and Croatian veterans of WW2 which has provided a focus for relations between those veterans and islanders. This ceremony is a significant event in the Island's calendar, drawing much support and affection, attracting the attention of local officials and civic representatives and helping maintain strong bonds between the island and the UK.

On learning of his award Peter Bickmore said "I am honoured to receive this award on behalf of the British Veterans of Vis. The special bond between us and the citizens of Vis is as strong today as in January 1944 when as young men we joined the fight assisting Tito's Partisan Army for the freedom of their country."

### **Amy HATHAWAY**

Project Director, Forever Projects, Mwanza, Tanzania, receives an MBE for services to providing interim and community care for abandoned and vulnerable infants in Mwanza

Amy Hathaway is the Founder and Project Director of Forever Angels Baby Home in Mwanza, Tanzania. Through a decade of selfless and dedicated hard work, she has created a home for abandoned and at risk infants which has saved and transformed lives and had a significant impact on the local community. It all started in 2002 when Amy, then working as an international teacher in Tanzania, became aware of the huge challenges faced by local hospitals and social services in dealing with large numbers of abandoned or motherless babies. Amy was so moved that she gave up her job and began to follow her vision in a full time, voluntary capacity. Through her strength of personality and powers of persuasion, by 2006 she had enough support and funds to buy, renovate and staff an old hospital building. The first child arrived at the Baby Home at the end of 2006 and now, ten years later, a loving home has provided over 350 orphans with a safe haven. The charity has grown to include

a pre-school, a sensory room, a specialized facility for premature infants as well as a rapidly expanding Community Outreach program - providing life saving nutrition for orphan babies and supporting their relatives to set up sustainable businesses and empowering them to support their own families now and into the future.

On learning of her award Amy Hathaway said "I am overwhelmed and delighted that this honour will put Forever Angels in the spotlight. Our work in Tanzania is incredible and only possible because of the passion and dedication of my amazing family, trustees, volunteers and staff. I am thankful to them for creating this with me."

### **Dr Sarah PAPE**

Consultant Plastic Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary Newcastle Upon Tyne receives an OBE for services to the treatment of burns patients in the UK and Romania

Dr Sarah Pape is a leading UK expert in her two main fields of work - the treatment of acute burns and reconstructive plastic surgery. In 2015, following a devastating fire at the Club Colectiv nightclub in Bucharest where 64 Romanians lost their lives, Dr Pape voluntarily deployed to the scene within hours of hearing of the incident. She arrived in Romania at a critical point with the Romanian medical system overwhelmed dealing with over 150 casualties of which 88 requiring critical care, and insufficient burns facilities across the country. In the immediate aftermath, Dr Pape provided expert clinical advice to Romanian medics and helped coordinate the emergency response across three hospitals in Bucharest. In the following days, Dr Pape worked tirelessly to help arrange the transfer of many patients with severe burns to other European countries in order to facilitate the specialist care they required and to free up resources in the Romanian system. Thanks to her vital contribution, many of these patients received a higher level of care than they otherwise could have expected.

On learning of her award Sarah Pape said "While I am honoured to receive this acknowledgement of my initiation and co-ordination of the UK response to the Bucharest night club fire, the fact that so many patients survived reflects the quality of care provided in Romania, during their evacuation and in many burns centres around the UK".

For further information about the case studies or to arrange an **interview** please contact the FCO Media Office on 020 7008 3100 or [Newsdesk@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Newsdesk@fco.gov.uk).

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