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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FCO Press Release: Honours for service to Britain internationally and overseas

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) announces 93 awards in recognition of truly exceptional and outstanding service to Britain internationally and overseas.

The Diplomatic Service and Overseas New Year 2019 Honours List recognises extraordinary people in a range of fields including British business and prosperity, British community and community relations, protecting British nationals overseas, charity and voluntary work, child welfare, commemorations and veterans, diplomacy, education, environmental conservation, public health, public service, science and scientific research, security, special education needs and sport.

Awards go to Dame Rosalyn HIGGINS DBE QC, former President of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, who receives a GBE for her services to international law and justice. Doctor Margaret ATWOOD, Canadian author, receives a Companion of Honour for services to literature. Michael PALIN CBE, Comedian, Actor, Writer and Television Presenter, receives a KCMG for services to travel, culture and geography. Glenda BAILEY OBE received a DBE for services to the GREAT Britain campaign and UK prosperity, charity, fashion and journalism. And Geva MENTOR receives a CBE for services to netball. Further information about recipients receiving higher awards on the Diplomatic Service and Overseas List can be found at the end of this press release at annex A.

This List also recognises three individuals who made an exceptional contribution as part of the team that rescued the Thai football team and their coach in the Tham Luang cave in Thailand in the summer. Four other members of the team have been recognised separately with Gallantry awards.

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

"I congratulate everyone receiving an honour and thank them for their hard work and years of service. Britain's impact around the world depends on exceptional people like those recognised today. Everyone in the FCO, at home and overseas, is grateful"

Examples of recipients from this honours list include:

Michael PALIN

Comedian, Actor, Writer and Television Presenter, receives a KCMG for services to travel, culture and geography

Michael Palin is recognised for his significant contribution to the UK in the fields of television, travel writing, geography, culture and entertainment. A BAFTA Fellow, a Fellow and past President of the Royal Geographical Society, an award-winning comedian and travel programme maker, Michael Palin is a world-renowned figure who has done much to promote and enhance UK public life both in the UK and around the world.

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Julian FRANCIS

Consultant, Bangladesh, receives an OBE for services to development in Bangladesh

Julian Francis is recognised for his outstanding contribution to Bangladesh since its independence. He first went to Bangladesh after supporting refugees who had fled to India during Bangladesh's independence struggle during which he played a leading role in delivering humanitarian aid to some 600,000 people of the 10 million refugees affected by the conflict in 1971. Over the five decades since, Julian has demonstrated a strongly principled and passionate commitment to helping the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Bangladesh. Using his deep understanding of Bangladeshi society and culture, he has been a central figure in delivering on a wide range of humanitarian and development programmes providing vital health, education and livelihoods support to some of the poorest and most marginalised communities in the country. Julian is a hugely respected and well-known figure in Bangladesh and his work has reflected real credit on the UK.

On learning of his award Julian Francis said, "It is indeed a great honour to be recognised in this way. At the same time, I honour the many colleagues who, over the years, have worked closely with me, at times moulding my thoughts and actions to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged".

Rachel HOGAN

Director of Ape Action Africa, receives an OBE for services to conservation

Rachel Hogan is recognised for an exceptional contribution to conservation through her role as Director of one of the largest primate sanctuary in Africa which rescues, homes and cares for hundreds of orphaned and injured gorillas, chimpanzees and monkeys in Cameroon, some only hours from death. Once in the care of the Sanctuary, Miss Hogan's team work around the clock in Cameroon's Mefou Primate Park to give them urgent veterinary care and nourishment. In the protected zone at Mefou, safe from poachers, trained experts, many of them local community members, care for the animals. Eventually, when the young orphans are strong enough, they are reintroduced to groups of their own kind in safe and controlled environments.

Since arriving in Cameroon as an unpaid volunteer in 2001, Miss Hogan has dedicated the last 17 years of her life to the animals in her care at the Sanctuary, becoming Director in 2010. During this time, Miss Hogan has helped save the lives of hundreds of primates and created close working partnerships with senior Ministers in Cameroon supporting their confiscation policy of illegally kept primates that have led to a huge increase in the number of successful prosecutions in the country for wildlife offences. Her work not only helps provide a stable environment for endangered species but also provides a source of vital income for local communities and supports local schools and education projects.

On learning of her award Rachel Hogan said "It is an honour for me and Ape Action Africa to be recognised by Her Majesty for my contribution to a cause that I'm passionate about. This award highlights the problems facing the great apes and conservation challenges we have on a daily basis, which gives me more hope for the future".

Martin Knox CRAWFORD

Chairman, Barewa Rugby Club, Nigeria, receives an OBE for services to rugby and the community in Nigeria

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Martin Crawford is recognised for an outstanding, sustained and extensive contribution to girls education and youth development in northern Nigeria. He has brought together his community, introduced rugby to thousands of under-privileged young boys and girls, overcoming entrenched cultural barriers, and used this opportunity to deliver further community development. Martin began his Kano project in 2004, founding Barewa Rugby Club, a not-for-profit organisation, introducing rugby to children at local schools and building their knowledge and understanding of the game, as well as their coaching skills, generating a sustainable community of rugby enthusiasts.

However, the programme itself goes beyond sport. Working with the British Council, Martin combines rugby with educational objectives, focused on improving the young people's social responsibility and leadership skills and connecting students from a local University with players in a mentoring scheme. For example, before participating in the games, the children must also attend sessions on topics such as gender based violence and drug abuse. Since founding the programme, through his passion for the sport, young people, and development, Mr Crawford has built an exceptional level of community engagement, focused on rugby, while drawing in education and health, and challenging traditional concepts on the role of girls in society.

On learning of his award Martin Crawford said "To have the efforts of our rugby coaches and management team recognised in this way is truly humbling. And, whilst the energy and enthusiasm of young Nigerian rugby players motivates us on a daily basis, the inspirational nature of this award will further encourage us, as we continue to promote the positive values of sport in our community."

Suzanna LUBRAN

Director, Newborns Vietnam, receives an MBE for services to reducing neo-natal mortality in Vietnam

Suzanna Lubran is recognised for an outstanding contribution as the founder and executive director of UK-registered charity Newborns Vietnam which uses training delivered by British doctors and nurses to raise the quality of neonatal care at central Vietnam's main maternity hospital, improving outcomes for thousands of sick or premature babies, and is now embedding these programmes at a national level. Key to this success has been Mrs Lubran's limitless creativity and drive in coming up with, and organising, a series of fundraising and promotional activities which have raised in excess of \$2.4 million since 2011 to support the charity's vital work. As a result, Suzanna's work has brought enormous credit to the image of the UK in Vietnam, both with the Vietnamese authorities and ordinary people in Vietnam. Newborns Vietnam is an identifiably British charity, using British medical expertise and skills to devise and deliver training programmes, and with the British community in Vietnam at the heart of many of their fundraising activities.

On learning of her award Suzanna Lubran said "I am extremely honoured to receive this award and immensely grateful for the incredible support of our British doctors and nurses and business community. A chance meeting with an inspirational Vietnamese doctor changed my life, the opportunity to be a small part of accelerating improvements in standards of Neonatal Care in Vietnam to give more parents the gift of life is a privilege".

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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ANNEX A

NOTES ON HIGHER AWARDS

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GBE

Dame Rosalyn Higgins D.B.E.

former President of the International Court of Justice. For services to international law and justice

Dame Rosalyn Higgins is recognised for her outstanding service to international law, human rights and the United Nations. Dame Rosalyn has made, since the 1960's, an unparalleled contribution to the advancement of international law, and in particular to the settlement of international disputes, to the law of the United Nations, and to the development and practical implementation of the law of human rights. Her highly distinguished career has spanned a wide range of roles including a 14 year term on the International Court of Justice, three of which she served as the Court's President, introducing new measures directed at efficiency and modernisation. She was the first and only woman to hold this position.

CH

Dr Margaret Atwood

Canadian Author. For services to literature

Margaret Atwood is recognised for her contribution as a world-renowned, award-winning Canadian author of poems, short stories and novels including such works as The Circle Game, The Handmaid's Tale, The Blind Assassin, Oryx and Crake, and the Tent. Her books have been translated into an array of different languages and seen several screen adaptations, with both Handmaid's Tale and Alias Grace becoming worldwide mini-series hits in recent years. A huge figure in the literary world, her lifelong contribution to the English language has done much to promote it throughout the world.

KCMG

Laurie Bristow C.M.G.

H.M. Ambassador, Moscow, Russia. For services to British foreign policy

Laurie Bristow is recognised for his pivotal role in the formulation and delivery of the Government's policy towards Russia during one of the most difficult and challenging periods in Anglo-Russia relations. His leadership of the British Embassy in Moscow during the Salisbury crisis showed exceptional resilience, fortitude and judgement, brought his deep insights into the Russian state to bear as HMG developed its response, and demonstrated his ability to motivate his team and maintain their morale under extraordinary pressure.

Michael Palin CBE FRGS

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Comedian, Actor, Writer and Television Presenter. For services to travel, culture and geography

Michael Palin is recognised for his significant contribution to the UK in the fields of television, travel writing, geography, culture and entertainment. A BAFTA Fellow, a Fellow and past President of the Royal Geographical Society, an award-winning comedian and travel programme maker, Michael Palin is a world-renowned figure who has done much to promote and enhance UK public life both in the UK and around the world.

DBE

Glenda Bailey O.B.E.

Editor-in-Chief, Harper's Bazaar USA. For services to the GREAT Britain campaign and UK prosperity, charity, fashion and journalism

Glenda Bailey is recognised for her highly significant voluntary contribution to the GREAT Britain campaign and other UK cultural and charitable institutions and her substantial impact at the helm of one of the world's most prolific fashion magazines. For the past 18 years, as a magazine editor at Harper's Bazaar and before that at Marie Claire, she has proven herself as a successful, highly creative, commercial editor. Her extensive voluntary work as an Ambassador for the GREAT Britain campaign and as a fundraiser for numerous cultural and cancer charities has been exceptional.