



## British Organisation of People of Asian Origin

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:

**Ministry of Defence**

**Name:** Brigadier Graeme Fraser MBE ADC

**Position:** Royal Marines, Naval Regional Commander (Wales & Western England)

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Signed on behalf of:

**British Organisation of People of Asian Origin**

**Position:** General Secretary

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018



**Ministry  
of Defence**



# The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom

Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

## Section 1: Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 The British Organisation for People of Asian Origin (BOPA) will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *No member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen;*
- *In some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

## Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 BOPA recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans, cadet force adult volunteers and military families bring to our business. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *Promoting awareness of the potential of the Armed Forces to provide Employment, Training and Skills Development within the Asian communities.*
- *Supporting those ex-service personnel looking to establish and grow new businesses, and in particular to signpost them to the network of founders and resources available to entrepreneurs through our strong links with the Asian business community.*
- *We will work in partnership with the Ministry of Defence in forging links with the Asian communities to build the capacity of both employers and employees and Defence.*
- *To work in partnership with Defence to nurture and develop the growth of veteran support groups within the Asian communities and others within the West Midlands Region.*
- *BOPA will promote that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation and work with our business community to;*
  - **Veterans:** *Work in partnership with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), in order to establish a tailored employment pathway for Service Leavers;*
  - **Service Spouse & Partners:** *support the employment of Service Personal spouses and partners as and when the need arises.*
  - *Endeavour to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service Spouses and Partners before, during and after partner's deployment;*

- **Reserves:** Seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;
- **Cadet Forces:** Offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible;
- **Armed Forces Day:** Aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day;
- **Commercial Fairness:** Encourage our business community to offer discounts where appropriate to members of the Armed Forces Community.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.