

## News story: Natasha Kaplinsky recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours for project to remember the Holocaust

The award recognises Natasha's incredible personal commitment to preserving the memory of the Holocaust for future generations, following her work to record the testimony of more than 100 British Holocaust survivors and Bergen Belsen liberators as part of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation's major national project.

Over a period of 15 months and on an entirely pro-bono basis, Natasha conducted 112 testimony interviews. The majority of these moving personal stories were recorded for the first time. The invaluable body of testimonies created by Natasha cover a wide range of experiences of Nazi persecution, including camp survivors, children in hiding, refugees who escaped to Britain – some of whom then served with the British Army – and children who arrived in Britain on the Kindertransport, an organised rescue effort for Jewish children in Germany and Nazi-occupied countries before the outbreak of war. The collection also includes Charedi survivors, a Roma survivor and recordings of British soldiers involved in the liberation and relief of Bergen Belsen Concentration Camp.

Natasha's work gave all these people the chance to record their history, preserving it so that their voices can be used to educate future generations about the lessons of the Holocaust and to challenge them to think about their own role in fighting hatred and prejudice in all its forms. The testimonies will have a permanent home in the new education centre that will accompany the National Memorial which is to be built next to Parliament in Westminster.

Natasha Kaplinsky said:

"Meeting the survivors and their families has been an incredible privilege. Their testimonies detail humanity's darkest hour. They are also stories of incredible strength, compassion, inspiration and forgiveness.

"Through their testimony they offer up challenges for us all to consider about our world and the way we treat each other, and to remind us of the constant need to stand up against hatred and prejudice in all its forms."

Natasha's empathetic, sensitive and personal style ensured that survivors felt comfortable sharing their experiences and the impact they had on their lives. Reflecting on their interview, one survivor commented:

"You handled me and my testimony with great sensitivity, which made it easier for me to talk about the painful events in my life. I cannot say I enjoyed the interview as it brought back so many painful memories, but at the end I was pleased to have done it... Future generations must know what happened."

The national project began after an independent, cross-party commission found there was an urgent need to record and preserve further testimony of British survivors and liberators. It has been led by the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation.

Sir Peter Bazalgette, chair of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, said:

“Natasha has undertaken an extraordinary project, single-handedly interviewing 112 British Holocaust survivors and liberators. Using her expertise, professionalism and compassionate approach, she was able to draw out stories sympathetically and sensitively, supporting survivors to recount their testimony.

“Natasha has helped to create an indelible record of the Holocaust, curating a particularly British story for future generations to learn from. This is something we can all be grateful for.”

The testimonies will be made available online so that they can be explored by individuals and educational projects around the UK. This new digital resource will add to the existing testimony available and form part of a rich network of recorded testimonies to aid remembrance and education.

[Watch an example of excerpts from the testimonies.](#)

## **About Natasha Kaplinsky**

Natasha Kaplinsky is one of the UK's leading broadcasters having worked for Sky News, BBC and ITV. Natasha is patron of a number of charities and an Ambassador for Save The Children. In 2014 she became a member of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission and in 2015 she was appointed by the Prime Minister to the board of the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation.

## **About the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation**

The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation (UKHMF) was created to implement the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission report in 2015, ensuring that the memory of the Holocaust and its lessons are preserved and remain current for future generations. Alongside the programme to record and preserve the testimony of Holocaust survivors, UKHMF is leading the creation of a new national Holocaust Memorial and accompanying education centre that will explain the facts of the Holocaust and challenge visitors to explore its lessons for society today. UKHMF has cross-party support and is chaired by Sir Peter Bazalgette.

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## **[Press release: The Queen's Birthday](#)**

# Honours 2017

To mark 100 years of the Order of the British Empire, this year's awards are the most diverse ever. In this centenary year the Honours List has granted a great number of awards to individuals from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background.

Awards include:

- a damehood for Professor Xiangqian Jiang, Director, UK EPSRC, Future Advanced Metrology Hub, University of Huddersfield, for services to Engineering and Manufacturing
- a knighthood for Professor Alimuddin Zumla, Professor of Infectious Diseases and International Health, University College London, for services to Public Health and Protection from Infectious Disease
- a knighthood for Professor Mir Zahedi, Technical Director, Chas A Blatchford and Sons, for services to Engineering and Innovation
- a CBE for Kenneth Tharp, lately Chief Executive, The Place, for services to Dance
- a CBE for Helen Adu, aka the singer Sade for services to Music
- an OBE for Professor Mahendra Varma, for services to Cardiology in Northern Ireland
- an OBE for Asif Haseeb for services to Racial Equality, Health and Education in Scotland and Pakistan
- an MBE for Tarek Malouf, Founder of the Hummingbird Bakery
- an MBE for Imam Monawar Hussain for services to Interfaith Relations and the community in Oxfordshire
- an MBE for Babak Erfani, Chairman of Archway, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Network

In total 1,109 people have received an award:

- 962 candidates have been selected at BEM, MBE and OBE level (303 at BEM, 438 at MBE and 221 at OBE)
- 74% of the recipients are people who have undertaken outstanding work in their communities either in a voluntary or paid capacity
- there are 554 successful women candidates in the list, representing 50% of the total
- 10% of the successful candidates come from a BAME background, the greatest ever number of BAME recipients in an Honours list
- 6.5% of the successful candidates consider themselves to have a disability (under the Equality Act 2010)

## **The centenary of the Order of the Companion of Honour**

This year also marks the centenary of The Order of the Companion of Honour (CH). To mark the occasion the independent committees have recommended the following nine appointments:

- Dame Beryl Grey, ballerina
- JK Rowling, author
- Sir Paul McCartney, musician
- Sir Mark Elder, conductor
- Sir Terence Conran, designer and restaurateur
- Delia Smith, cook
- Lord Stern, climate change expert
- Sir John Sulston, scientist
- Dame Steve Shirley, philanthropist

Also in the list is:

- a damehood for 100 year old actress, Olivia de Havilland
- a knighthood for composer and conductor, George Benjamin
- a damehood for actress, Julie Walters
- a knighthood for Billy Connolly for services to Entertainment and to charity
- a damehood for actress, June Whitfield
- a damehood for mezzo soprano, Sarah Connolly
- a CBE for actress, June Spencer
- a CBE for illustrator, cartoonist and author, Raymond Briggs
- an OBE for Judy Murray for services to Tennis, Women in Sport and charity
- an OBE for actress, Patricia Hodge
- an OBE for British and Irish rugby player, Rory Best
- an OBE for actress, Sarah-Jane Lancashire
- an OBE for David Walliams for services to charity and the Arts
- an OBE for Natasha Kaplinsky, for services to Holocaust Commemoration
- an MBE for Steven Davis, Captain of the Northern Ireland Football Team
- an MBE for Ed Sheeran for services to Music and charity

## Women

The proportion of women who have received Honours at the highest levels (CBE and above) has increased to 43%. The awards include:

- a damehood for Dr Angela Strank, Chief Scientist and Head of Downstream Technology, BP
- a damehood for Helena Morrissey, for services to Diversity in Financial Services
- a damehood for Cilla Snowball, CEO and Group Chairman, AMVBBD0 Advertising Agency
- a damehood for Professor Parveen Kumar, Professor of Medicine and Education, Bart's and the London School of Medicine, Queen Mary, University of London
- a damehood for Professor Theresa Marteau, Honorary Professor and Director of the Behaviour and Health Research Unit, University of Cambridge
- a damehood for Carmen Callil, Founder of Virago Press
- a CBE for Barbara Gubbins, Chief Executive, County Durham Community Foundation

- a CBE for Professor Pamela Taylor, Professor of Forensic Psychiatry, Cardiff University
- a CBE for Councillor Judith Blake, Leader, Leeds City Council
- a CBE for Beverley Bell, lately Senior Traffic Commissioner for Great Britain
- a CBE for Jennifer Price, Chief Executive, Sport England
- a CBE for Professor Norma Dawson, Professor of Law, Queen's University of Belfast

## Philanthropy

Recommendations from the field of philanthropy include:

- a knighthood for Leonard Blavatnik, who for over a decade has built a record of outstanding personal philanthropy in the UK to education, cultural and charitable causes including a commitment in 2010 of £75 million to Oxford University to establish the Blavatnik School of Government
- a CBE for William Parente for services to the Arts and Philanthropy who commissioned the £3million Harley Gallery to display his family's art collection to the public for the first time and with no charge
- a CBE for Lady Joan Jarvis, now aged 90, who has been a dedicated supporter of many social welfare causes all of her life, particularly supporting Cancer Research and the Royal National Institute of Blind People

## Local communities

In total, 74 per cent of awards in the Birthday Honours List will go to people who have undertaken outstanding work in or for their local community, following the Prime Minister's strategic steer that she would like more honours to go to people really contributing to society and their communities. Those receiving awards include:

- an MBE for Razia Ismail, Chair and Founder, Aaghee, for services to Women in the Asian Community in Birmingham – a women's rights campaigner, she has taken an active role in promoting minority women with a range of activities designed to reach the most disadvantaged in the community
- MBEs for Sheila and Trevor Fairhurst, Co-Founders of CarlyFund.co.uk – since the tragic death of their teenage daughter in 2006, they have highlighted the plight of those suffering domestic abuse and raised funds for counselling victims
- an MBE for Michael Fitzgerald who for over 50 years has been at the forefront of volunteering in Maidstone providing services to the community, particularly the homeless
- an MBE for Elizabeth Burton-Phillips, Founder, DrugFAM – she founded the charity in 2006 and provides a lifeline of caring and professional support to families, friends and carers who are struggling to cope with a loved one's addiction to drugs or alcohol

The Prime Minister has also provided a strategic steer to the Main Honours Committee that the honours system should support children and young people to achieve their potential, enhance life opportunities, remove barriers to success and work to tackle discrimination. Some prominent awards that reflect these priorities are:

- a CBE for Aisha Gill, Professor of Criminology, University of Roehampton, for services to tackling forced marriage, Honour Crimes and violence against women
- a CBE for Gillian McNeil, Director and Chief Executive, Theirworld, for services to the health and education of vulnerable children and women
- a CBE for Mark Wood, Chair of the NSPCC, for services to children and young people

## Education

Around 11 per cent of honours are for work in Education. The Honours Education Committee has recommended:

- a damehood for Hilary Boulding, Principal of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, for services to Education and Culture in Wales
- a knighthood for Professor Vito Muscatelli, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Glasgow

Other senior awards in Education include:

- a CBE for Helena Mills, CEO of Burnt Mill Academy Trust in Essex
- a CBE for Andy McNab for services to adult literacy

There is also a BEM for school crossing patrol warden, Effie Walker, who started her job when Colgrain Primary School opened in 1973, for her service to Education and the community in Helensburgh, Argyll and Bute.

## Health

Health makes up 9 per cent of all honours. There is a rich breadth of vocations recognised within the health sector. There is:

- a GBE (Knight Grand Cross) for Sir Michael Rawlins, Chair of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for services to the Safety of Medicines, Healthcare and Innovation
- a GBE for Professor Sir David Weatherall, Regius Professor of Clinical Medicine Emeritus, The Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford, for services to Medicine
- a knighthood for Professor Simon Lovestone, Professor of Translational Neuroscience, University of Oxford

Recommendations at MBE include an award for Dr Nikita Kanani, GP and Chief Clinical Officer of the NHS Bexley Commissioning Group.

## Industry and the Economy

Industry and the Economy make up 12 per cent of this honours list. The Economy Committee has recommended a knighthood for Mark Boleat, lately Chairman, Policy and Resources Committee, City of London Corporation, for services to the Financial Services Industry and to Local Government in London.

A number of strong entrepreneurs and those supporting entrepreneurship are also recognised, including:

- a CBE for Robert Keiller, Chairman, Scottish Enterprise
- an OBE for Ashley Tabor, Founder and Executive President, Global
- an MBE for Emily Brooke, Founder and CEO, Blaze

And within the technology sector the awards include:

- a CBE for Melvyn Morris, Non-Executive Chairman, King Digital Entertainment plc
- an OBE for Arvind Kapur, Chairman, National Space Centre and Founder and Director, Signum Corporate Communications Ltd
- an MBE for Dr Mark Mason, lately CEO, Mubaloo, for services to the Digital Economy

## Science and Technology

Science and Technology make up 3 per cent of the total. There is:

- a knighthood for Professor Hugh Godfray, Hope Professor of Zoology, University of Oxford
- an MBE for Professor Rebecca Lunn, Professor, University of Strathclyde, a female leader in the field of UK engineering and science

## Sport

Awards for Sport make up 5 per cent of the total. There is an OBE for olympian Heather Stanning who announced her retirement from rowing at the end of 2016 having balanced her sporting achievements with a successful career in the Army.

Awards to grassroots sport include a BEM for David Meldrum who has given over 60 years of service to Rothesay Brandanes Amateur Football Club in Argyll and Bute. Over the years he has held every post in the Club and in his playing days, played every position.

## Law and Order

In Law and Order, the awards include:

- a knighthood for His Honour Peter Thornton, lately Chief Coroner
- a CBE for Rose Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Constable, Police Scotland

- a CBE for His Honour Judge Marc Dight, Senior Circuit Judge, Central London County Court

The recommendations for state servants include:

- a KCB (Knight Commander) for Tom Scholar, Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury
- a KCB for Chris Wormald, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health

## Parliamentary

The Parliamentary and Political Service Committee has recommended a damehood for Claire Clancy, Chief Executive and Clerk of the National Assembly for Wales.

Other awards include an MBE for Sandra Major, a constituency worker of the late Jo Cox, who had been with her when she died.

Finally, there is an MBE recommended for George (Johnny) Johnson, for his contribution to remembrance and to the community in Bristol. Mr Johnson participated in the famous 1943 Ruhr and Eder bombing raids by the "Dambusters" 617 Squadron and was recognised for this with the Distinguished Flying Medal. He supports mental health organisations in his local area, is still actively involved with the British Legion, and regularly conducts presentations to schools on the Dambuster raid of 1943.

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## [Press release: DIT appoints Crawford Falconer as new Chief Trade Negotiation Adviser](#)

A globally respected trade negotiator, tasked with sealing deals with the UK's key trading partners, has been appointed today by the Prime Minister and the International Trade Secretary.

Internationally recognised expert Crawford Falconer will act as head of profession for trade negotiators and will bolster the Civil Service's trade negotiation skills, bringing over 25 years of public service in trade and foreign affairs.

As the Chief Trade Negotiation Adviser and Second Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Trade (DIT) he will be responsible to the Secretary of State for International Trade, The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP for negotiating with ministers the best global trade deals that will benefit the whole of the UK.



The new expert Second Permanent Secretary post was created to support the establishment of a world-class trade negotiation function and lead this new profession within the Civil Service, reporting to the DIT Permanent Secretary.

Together with his team Crawford will:

- develop and negotiate free trade agreements and market access deals with non-EU countries
- negotiate plurilateral trade deals on specific sectors or products
- make the department a 'centre of excellence' for negotiation and British trade
- support the UK's membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Since its formation in July 2016, the headcount at DIT has increased to a global workforce of over 3,000 people. The Trade Policy Group that includes policy and country specialists, as well as expert economic analysts and lawyers, has itself quadrupled in size.

International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox said:

Britain is a great global trading nation and, as we leave the EU, we will embrace the world and seek to build an outward-looking Britain that is confident on the world stage.

We're attracting the very best global talent to DIT as an international economic department. Crawford brings extensive experience of trade negotiation and foreign affairs and will play a key leadership role, with ministers and the first Permanent Secretary as we further build our trade capability

Welcoming the appointment Sir Jeremy Heywood said:

As the UK's first Chief Trade Negotiation Adviser, Crawford Falconer will play a crucial role in building the Department for International Trade's trade negotiation capability, enabling the new department to take forward its vital mission of promoting free trade and supporting UK business on the global stage. I am delighted that we have been able to secure someone for this role with a long and distinguished track record in international trade negotiations.

Crawford Falconer is an excellent addition to DIT's senior team and I look forward to working with him.

Antonia Romeo, Permanent Secretary at DIT, said:

Crawford Falconer brings a wealth of global trade expertise to the

Department for International Trade from over 25 years of working on trade policy in the New Zealand government, the OECD and academia.

International trade drives the prosperity of the UK and the world. As we build our relationships to create a more global Britain, Crawford will be central to our work to secure the best trade deals that deliver for businesses and consumers.

Crawford Falconer said:

As the UK prepares to leave the EU, it will be top of the government's agenda to turn the enormous new opportunities opening up for the UK into win-win agreements with our trading partners around the globe.

That will bring tangible new gains to us at home, and it will bring gains to those trading partners that join us. As the world's fifth largest economic power, the UK will bring much needed leadership to the international trade agenda. I am absolutely delighted to join this hugely exciting new journey.

DIT has already established a series of 9 'working groups' with 15 countries including India, China and Australia and high-level dialogues to explore the best ways of progressing our trade and investment relationships.

The announcement comes as Dr Fox prepares to visit his US counterparts in Washington (Monday 19 June 2017) to explore ways of deepening trade and economic links on what will be his first international visit since being reappointed International Trade Secretary.

A New Zealand/UK dual-national, Crawford Falconer is currently Professor of Global Value Chains and Trade at Lincoln University. This follows a long career at the heart of NZ's Foreign Office, specialising in trade. He was latterly the NZ Deputy Secretary and Vice Minister for International Trade and Foreign Affairs. He is a former NZ Ambassador to the WTO, and the holder of a variety of trade-related posts within the ministry.

## **Further information**

Contact the DIT Media and Digital Team on 020 7215 2000.

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## Press release: Prime Minister's statement on the death of Helmut Kohl

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

It is with great sadness that I learned of the death of former Chancellor Helmut Kohl. As the First Chancellor of a unified Germany since 1945 he was a giant of European history. On behalf of the people of the United Kingdom I pay tribute to the role he played in helping to end the Cold War and reunify Germany.

We have lost the father of modern Germany and my deepest sympathies and condolences are with his family and with the German people at this sad time.

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## Press release: Foreign Secretary hosts further talks with Gulf counterparts on diplomatic tensions

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has held talks with Gulf counterparts this week about ongoing tensions in the region.

Mr Johnson met with the Foreign Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Thani, on Monday (12 June) to discuss the diplomatic row between the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Today (Friday 16 June), the Foreign Secretary met Khalid bin Ahmed al Khalifa, the Foreign Minister of Bahrain; Adel Al-Jubeir, the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia; and the Deputy Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Dr Anwar Mohammed Gargash, at the Foreign Office in London.

On Tuesday (13 June), Boris Johnson spoke to Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Saba, by phone, thanking him for the leading role Kuwait is playing in mediating the current row.

The Foreign Secretary reiterated his concerns about the ongoing tensions, urging Gulf ministers to deescalate the situation and find a swift resolution through mediation.

He called on all Gulf states to refrain from any escalation which could have serious repercussions on the lives of ordinary people in Qatar and beyond. He

made clear that the UK is concerned by the collective action taken by Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt and Bahrain against an important ally, and urged them to ease the restrictions currently in place on Qatar.

The Foreign Secretary reiterated that Qatar must engage with its neighbours in the region on their concerns about extremism, and build on the progress already made to address the scourge of radicalism and terrorism in the region, in partnership with its Gulf allies.

Alistair Burt, the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, also spoke with a number of Gulf interlocutors today.

The UK and the US remain in close contact as they both make efforts to calm tensions in the region.