



AFRICA

Clara Costa, Administrative Assistant

Embassy of Angola

Clara has worked 18 years of uninterrupted service at the Embassy of the Republic of Angola, demonstrating strong commitment, reliability, and continuity.

Carla Divengle, Principal Administrative Assistant

Embassy of Angola

Carla Denise dos Anjos Divengle holds a Master's degree in International Relations and has more than 24 years of continuous service at the Embassy of the Republic of Angola in London. Throughout her career, Carla has demonstrated exceptional loyalty, reliability, and strong institutional memory, together with the ability to adapt to evolving diplomatic, administrative, and technological standards across multiple ambassadorial mandates.

Carla is a dynamic individual who enjoys challenges and is recognised for her excellent communication skills, high level of initiative, and ability to work well under pressure. She also has a proven ability to anticipate and solve problems effectively.

Born Luanda, Angola, Carla moved to Portugal with her family in 1980 at the age of nine. In July 1994, she arrived in London to pursue her studies.

Carla Pinto João, Protocol Attaché

Embassy of Angola

Carla has 14 years of dedicated service in the Protocol Office, including progressive responsibility culminating in the role of Head of Protocol. Now Protocol Attaché. Ghana High Commission

Hemanchandra Wanniarachige, Caretaker

High Commission of Ghana

Hemanchandra Wanniarachige, Caretaker has rendered dedicated and selfless service to the High Commission of Ghana for 32 years, exemplifying loyalty, responsibility and quiet excellence.

Throughout this long period of service, he consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic, integrity and an unwavering commitment to duty. His role went beyond routine caretaking. He ensured the safety, cleanliness, and upkeep of the premises, creating a welcoming and dignified environment for staff, visitors and dignitaries alike. With humility and professionalism, he carried out his responsibilities with minimal supervision, earning the trust and respect of all who worked with him.

His willingness to go the extra mile, often sacrificing personal comfort for the needs of the institution, reflects a deep sense of pride in service.

The High Commission is immeasurably grateful for his enduring contribution, which has left a lasting legacy. His 32 years of faithful service stand as a testament to dedication, reliability and exemplary service.

Maria Florenca, Cleaner

High Commission of South Africa

Ms Maria Florenca has been employed as a Cleaner at the South African High Commission since 26 November 2004 and has served multiple diplomatic staff at the South African High Commission with dignity and pride for over 21 years of uninterrupted service.

She has extensive knowledge of health and safety regulations and is able to work independently, operating, cleaning, and maintaining equipment to a consistently high standard. Ms Florenca demonstrates excellent attention to detail and is recognised for her reliability and trustworthiness. She also has a strong knowledge and understanding of different surfaces, cleaning chemicals, and other safety products.

Her excellent time management skills and efficiency stand out. Ms Florenca has the energy required to manage tasks, establish effective cleaning routines, and complete work efficiently within designated time frames.

Her professionalism, communication skills, and problem-solving abilities reflect her extensive experience and the value she brings to the South African High Commission.

Charito Ravago, Immigration Assistant

High Commission of South Africa

Charito Ravago has worked at the High Commission of South Africa for 24 years. She is highly dedicated to her work and has extensive knowledge and experience in immigration, including visa and residency requirements, as well as a wide range of mission-related activities.

She rarely prioritises taking time off work, consistently demonstrating a strong commitment to her responsibilities and ensuring that her workload is managed effectively and not left unattended or backlogged.

Ms Ravago is a valuable asset to both clients and mission officials. She is recognised for her dedication, teamwork, professionalism, communication skills, and the respect and care she shows in all aspects of her work.

Edward Wilby, Chauffeur/Driver to the High Commissioner

High Commission of South Africa

Mr Edward Wilby began his career as the Chauffeur Driver to the High Commissioner in June 1997 at the South African High Commission. He is a highly experienced and dedicated member of staff with over 25 years of continuous service at the South African High Commission in London. Throughout his tenure, he has demonstrated exceptional professionalism, discretion, and unwavering commitment in supporting successive South African High Commissioners.

Mr Wilby possesses extensive knowledge in diplomatic logistic operations, adherence to protocol, and consular administrative functions. He is widely regarded as a reliable and trusted professional, consistently maintaining the highest standards required

within a diplomatic environment.

Mr Wilby has been trusted to serve multiple High Commissioners across successive administrations.

James Garang, Head of Mission Driver & Public Relations Officer

Embassy of South Sudan

Mr Garang deserves this nomination for his long service at the Embassy for his 15 years of service to the Embassy of South Sudan since 2011. He is hard working and approaches his responsibilities with diligence and a strong work ethic. He has demonstrated his ability to be adaptable through changes and has worked with different Heads of Mission through multiple shifts while still maintaining his approach.

Mr Garang is resilient and remains composed and effective under pressure and in demanding circumstances. He is trustworthy and has proven to be dependable and maintains a high level of integrity in the execution of his duties. Mr Garang has admirable consistency: he has delivered steady and reliable performance over time. He carries out his responsibilities efficiently and without constant supervision.

Meenakshi Chavda, Receptionist

High Commission of Tanzania

The receptionist works with the Mission over the past 20 years in different departments at the High Commission. She deserves to be nominated for her hard work and good cooperation with all the staff in the Mission. She is passionate about her work and shows great adaptability, resourcefulness and integrity.

Issa Kargbo, Driver to the High Commissioner

High Commission of Tanzania

Mr Kargbo has served the Tanzania High Commission with exceptional dedication and professionalism for over 20 years in his capacity as the official driver to the High Commissioner. Throughout this extended period of service, he has consistently demonstrated a high level of reliability, discretion, and commitment to duty, qualities indispensable to the support of diplomatic operations.

In the course of his service, Mr Kargbo has provided critical logistical support to successive Heads of Mission, facilitating official engagements, high-level visits, and day-to-day operations with efficiency and utmost professionalism. His deep understanding of protocol, punctuality, and calm demeanour under pressure has significantly contributed to the smooth execution of the High Commission's functions.

Beyond his formal responsibilities, Mr Kargbo is widely respected for his integrity, loyalty, and positive attitude. He has proven to be a dependable member of staff who upholds the High Commission's values and reputation at all times. His long-standing service reflects not only personal dedication but also a strong commitment to public service and the diplomatic mission of the United Republic of Tanzania.

In view of the above, the Tanzania High Commission strongly and wholeheartedly recommends Mr Issa Kargbo for the Long Service Award. We believe his exemplary record and unwavering commitment make him a most deserving candidate for this recognition.

Luba Kaweesa, Consular Clerk

High Commission of Uganda

Ms Luba Kaweesa has served the Mission since the year 2000. During this time, she has demonstrated commitment and professionalism in service delivery in execution of her duties in the Consular section.

Throughout her tenure, she has played a vital role in advancing the Mission's objectives supporting consular services. Given her long time of service at the Mission, Ms Luba Kaweesa has institutional knowledge and is reliable in navigating complex diplomatic and administrative responsibilities.

She has consistently shown exceptional work ethics, mentorship to colleagues and deep understanding of her work. The Mission therefore strongly recommends Ms Luba Kaweesa for this Award.

Alexander Nishan Dr Cruze, Chauffeur

High Commission of Zambia

Alexander Nishan De Cruze is a highly deserving candidate for the Embassy Long Service Officer Award for Africa, in recognition of his exceptional dedication, professionalism, and integrity throughout 30 years of service. In his role as Chauffeur, he has consistently provided safe, reliable, and efficient transportation for High Commissioners, diplomatic staff, officials and visitors, often operating under challenging conditions. His extensive knowledge of local routes, road conditions, and security considerations has been invaluable in ensuring the smooth and secure movement of personnel, particularly in complex or high-pressure environments.

Mr De Cruze is widely respected for his discretion, courtesy, and trustworthiness, qualities that have significantly contributed to the effective functioning and reputation of the Mission. He is known for his calm and dependable approach, as well as his willingness to go beyond his core duties by assisting with logistics and maintaining vehicles to a high standard. His strong work ethic, attention to detail, and commitment to operational excellence have supported efficiency and continuity within the High Commission.

Throughout his time at the High Commission, Mr De Cruze has taken great pride in representing the Mission with professionalism, punctuality and respect in all aspects of his duties. Serving different High Commissioners, staff members, and official visitors over the years has been both an honour and a valuable experience for him. Over the course of his 30 years of service, he has had the privilege of chauffeuring 10 High Commissioners, as well as each President of Zambia during official visits and engagements. He has remained steadfastly committed to ensuring safe and dependable transport services, while also supporting the smooth day-to-day operations of the Mission whenever needed.

In addition to his operational contributions, Mr De Cruze has played an important role in supporting institutional knowledge and continuity, particularly during periods of transition. He is recognised for his collaborative approach, willingness to mentor colleagues, and ability to foster a positive working environment. His sustained service, professionalism, and unwavering commitment have made a lasting and positive impact on the High Commission, reflecting great credit upon it and making him an exemplary candidate for this award.

Mahinda Perera, Consular Clerk

Embassy of Zimbabwe

Mr Mahinda Perera has demonstrated exceptional dedication, loyalty, and professionalism throughout his 35+ years of long-standing service at the Zimbabwe Embassy. Joining the Embassy in 1990, he has consistently upheld the highest standards of integrity and commitment, contributing significantly to the smooth and effective functioning of the mission.

His institutional knowledge, developed through years of hands-on experience, has been invaluable in maintaining continuity and supporting both diplomatic and administrative operations. Mr Perera is widely respected by colleagues for his reliability, strong work ethic, and willingness to go above and beyond his duties to ensure that responsibilities are carried out efficiently.

In addition to his technical competence, he has shown admirable interpersonal skills, fostering a cooperative and respectful working environment. His positive attitude and readiness to assist others have made him an integral part of the embassy team.

Mr Perera's long and distinguished service reflects not only personal dedication but also a deep commitment to representing the values and interests of Zimbabwe with dignity and professionalism. His contributions have had a lasting impact, making him highly deserving of recognition through a Long Service Award.

AMERICAS

Ivo Luis De Andrade, Driver

Embassy of Brazil/Brazilian Army Office

Mr Ivo Luis De Andrade arrived in London over 20 years ago. He faced initial challenges with the language and the distance from family and friends, but his strong desire to succeed helped him overcome these obstacles. As a result, Mr Ivo built a life in London, started a family, and obtained the right to work and reside in the city. His ability to adapt to the language and local culture facilitated his professional growth, leading him to work as a driver for the Brazilian Representation in London for two years and then at the Army Attachés office for the past 13 years.

During this time, Mr Ivo has proven to be a dedicated and committed professional, treating the attachés employees and their guests with respect, courtesy and goodwill.

As a long-term London resident, he has developed a deep understanding of the city, its organisation, and its culture. More than just a driver, Mr Ivo has played a crucial role in supporting the activities of the attachés office by assisting delegations and dignitaries. He consistently offers valuable insights about the city and its unique aspects of life, demonstrating his adaptability and respect for local customs.

Mr Ivo's contributions have been essential to the success of the organisation and the effective functioning of the Brazilian Army Attachés' activities in London. His competent, warm, and friendly interactions with all members of the Army Attachés office and visitors reflect this commitment. His dedication and exceptional service over the years make Mr Ivo truly deserving of recognition, nomination, and an award.

Jesús Mazo, Press Officer

Embassy of Brazil

Jesús Mazo has been a dedicated member of the Embassy of Brazil in London since 2002, serving with consistency and commitment in the Public Diplomacy Section. Originally from Spain, he brings a valuable international perspective to his work, combined with a deep familiarity with the Embassy's operations built over more than two decades of service.

In his role, Mr Mazo provides essential support to the day-to-day functioning of the Section, carrying out his responsibilities with diligence, reliability, and attention to detail. He is known for his strong work ethic and readiness to assist wherever needed, often going beyond his immediate duties to ensure that tasks are completed efficiently and to a high standard.

Mr Mazo is also deeply appreciated by colleagues across the Embassy. His positive attitude, collegial spirit, and willingness to learn make him a valued member of the team. He approaches his work with humility and professionalism, and his longstanding service reflects both his dedication to the institution and his pride in contributing to its mission.

Mr Mazo exemplifies the qualities this award seeks to recognise – sustained commitment, dependability, and a quiet but meaningful contribution to the effectiveness of the Embassy's work. He is fully deserving of this recognition.

Sylvie Duguay, Events Coordinator

High Commission of Canada

Ms Sylvie Duguay came over to London from Le Goulet, a small village in New Brunswick Canada and started working at the High Commission as an LES in April 1991, 35 years ago. Her first role was in CDLS, which she did for a few months before moving to Finance for five years. Following that she took on two roles at the same time for a year, working in Property and Events, before moving into Events full-time.

Ms Duguay has been involved in planning and coordinating a wide range of high-profile events, Royal visits, Prime Ministerial visits, ministerial delegations, and numerous official functions, ensuring that every aspect of logistics and event operations was handled smoothly and efficiently while maintaining the highest standards of service.

She has always taken great pride in her work and remains committed to delivery excellence in every event she manages in Canada House.

Cristián Santa Maria Mozo, Administration Manager

Embassy of Chile

Cristián Santa Maria Mozo has been at the Embassy of Chile since 1983. An incredible four decades' worth of dedication, care and patience – especially with all of us!

Forty-three years ago, Mr Santa Maria Mozo came to London to work and learn English, with all intentions of leaving after a while. But somewhere along the way, the UK became home. He has been part of Chile's Mission in the UK through thick and thin, working up the ladder from Telephone Operator, to Courier, to Accountant, to Administration Manager. He has witnessed the Embassy's many glow-up eras, more Ambassadors than

any of us could keep track of, and miraculously solved admin changes and problems thanks to his outstanding organisational skills.

In 2019, he was awarded the Employee Merit Medal by the Government of Chile, for his then 35 years of service. He is an integral pillar in the Embassy, and we are all beyond grateful for everything Mr Santa Maria Mozo has given over the years. He and his accounts have seen it all, and throughout the UK economy's many ups and downs (the 2008 Crash, Brexit, and Covid, to name just a recent few), Mr Santa Maria Mozo's work has always been absolutely impeccable. Simply put, Cristián Santa Maria Mozo is Chile's Mission in the UK. But much more importantly to us, he is a dear friend. We're all a little envious of his plans to eventually retire in Marbella, but we hope he'll stay and put up with us a while longer!

Edgar Briceño, Personal Assistant to the Ambassador of Colombia Embassy of Colombia

Edgar Briceño is a highly dedicated and exemplary member of the Embassy's locally engaged staff, whose outstanding service over the past 15 years has made him an invaluable asset to the Mission. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently demonstrated professionalism, reliability, and a strong commitment to excellence in all his responsibilities.

His work is distinguished by its precision, attention to detail, and high standards, ensuring that tasks are carried out efficiently and to the benefit of the Embassy's overall functioning. Mr Briceño is widely recognised for his proactive approach and his ability to anticipate needs, which has made him a trusted and dependable support to the Ambassador, as well as to colleagues across different sections of the Mission.

Beyond his technical competence, Mr Briceño stands out for his collaborative spirit and positive attitude. He is always willing to assist others, contribute to team efforts, and uphold a constructive working environment. His long-standing service reflects not only loyalty and dedication, but also a sustained record of exceptional performance.

In light of his significant contributions, his professionalism, and his 15 years of distinguished service, Edgar Briceño fully merits consideration for the Embassy Long Service Officer Award.

Carolina Jaramillo, Local Staff Embassy of Colombia

For the Consulate General of Colombia in London, it is an honour to nominate Ms Carolina Jaramillo for the Embassy Long Service Officer of the Year Award, in recognition of her more than 15 years of dedicated service and her consistent support of the Consulate's core processes in service of the Colombian community abroad.

Hernán Espinosa, Diplomat Driver Embassy of Mexico

Mr Hernán Espinosa is highly deserving of the Embassy Long Service Officer Award in recognition of his 25 years of uninterrupted and exemplary service at the Embassy of Mexico in the United Kingdom. Throughout more than two decades, he has demonstrated exceptional professionalism, loyalty, discretion, and commitment to the mission of the Embassy, becoming an indispensable

member of the team.

As Diplomatic Driver, Mr Espinosa has provided outstanding support to at least eight different Ambassadors, adapting seamlessly to different leadership styles and consistently maintaining the highest standards of service. His role extends far beyond transportation; he has been a trusted representative of the Embassy, ensuring the safety, punctuality, and smooth coordination of countless high-level diplomatic engagements, official visits, and institutional events.

His reliability, calm under pressure, and deep understanding of diplomatic protocol have made him a key figure in the daily functioning of the Embassy. He is widely respected by colleagues for his integrity, willingness to support others, and strong sense of responsibility. His institutional knowledge and long-standing dedication have provided continuity and stability across changing administrations and evolving priorities.

Mr Espinosa's 25 years of distinguished service reflect not only professional excellence but also a genuine commitment to representing Mexico with dignity and pride. His contribution has strengthened the Embassy's work and reputation in the United Kingdom, making him an outstanding candidate for this recognition.

Graciela Martinez, Chef Embassy of Mexico

Graciela Martinez has been the Chef of the Residence of Mexico, serving the Embassy of Mexico with exceptional dedication for 21 years. Throughout more than two decades, she has consistently demonstrated professionalism, loyalty, and an unwavering commitment to excellence in her work.

Ms Martinez has played a fundamental role in supporting official events, diplomatic receptions, and daily operations at the Residence, ensuring that every occasion is executed with the highest standards. Her attention to detail, culinary expertise, and ability to perform under pressure have contributed significantly to the success of numerous high-level gatherings attended by distinguished guests.

Beyond her technical skills, she is deeply respected for her reliability, positive attitude, and strong sense of responsibility. She has built lasting relationships with staff and colleagues, and her presence has become an integral part of the institutional memory and daily life of the Residence.

Her 21 years of continuous service reflect not only her professional excellence but also her commitment to representing her country with pride and distinction. She consistently goes above and beyond her duties, adapting to changing demands while maintaining the highest level of quality in everything she does.

For these reasons, she is highly deserving of the Embassy Long Service Officer Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution, dedication, and long-standing service.

ASIA

Ayu Sekarsari, Confidential Clerk

High Commission of Brunei Darussalam

Ayu Sekarsari is a Confidential Clerk at the High Commission of Brunei Darussalam, where she has dedicated 30 years of service. Ayu began her career at

Brunei Hall (Brunei Student Hostel) in February 1996 as a server. After just one month, in March 1996, she transitioned to the role of receptionist. Following two years in that position, she was promoted in 1998 to a clerical role and, since 1 November 2008, has served as a Confidential Clerk within the Brunei Students' Unit.

Ayu's primary duty is as the Confidential Clerk to the Director of Studies. She is responsible for correspondence, particularly matters classified as confidential. She is also tasked with updating the personal data of all officers and Local Engaged Staff (LES). Due to her extensive tenure and experience, Ayu frequently serves as a subject matter expert in the administrative affairs of the Students' Unit.

Djamal Djamalullail, Finance Officer

Embassy of Indonesia

This nomination recognises an individual whose long-standing service and consistent contribution have supported both the Indonesian Embassy and the Indonesian community in the United Kingdom.

Mr Djamal Djamalullail has served at the Embassy for 35+ years since 1990, demonstrating over three decades of dedication and reliability. As a Finance Officer, he manages cash flow and ensures that financial processes are carried out accurately and in accordance with procedures. His role requires precision and accountability, and he has maintained a steady and dependable approach throughout his service. He also works closely with local banking partners, handling coordination and maintaining professional relationships that support the Embassy's financial operations.

Mr Djamalullail's work is largely behind the scenes but essential to the Embassy's daily functioning. Colleagues consistently value his practical knowledge and his willingness to guide newer members of staff – a generosity that speaks to both his character and his depth of experience. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration, from the American University in London, a foundation that supports the professionalism and rigour he brings to his role.

Beyond his official duties, Mr Djamalullail is also a leader of an Indonesian diaspora community in the UK. He currently serves as the Head of Trustees of the Indonesian Islamic Centre (IIC). The IIC began in the mid-1990s through small community gatherings and a shared goal to establish a permanent place for worship. After nearly 30 years of effort, this was achieved on 25 November 2022 with the acquisition of a property for the first Indonesian mosque in London.

His involvement reflects a strong commitment to community service alongside his professional responsibilities. The Centre now serves as a place for worship, learning, and community connection.

Outside of work and social activities, he remains just as active. He cycles to the Embassy once a week and is a keen player of badminton, volleyball, and football. Mr Djamalullail also enjoys travelling, with a particular passion for exploring historical sites around the world.

With more than 30 years of consistent service and contribution, Mr Djamalullail is a deserving candidate for the Embassy Long Service Officer of the Year Award. His record reflects dedication, integrity, and a sustained commitment to both institution and community over many years.

Indarty Noor, Protocol and Consular Officer and Advisor

Embassy of Indonesia

Mrs Indarty 'Alty' Noor has demonstrated an extraordinary and unwavering commitment to public service through her remarkable 41-year tenure at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in London. Over the course of her distinguished career, she has contributed across nearly all major sections of the Embassy including economic affairs, finance, communications, and ultimately protocol and consular services reflecting exceptional versatility, adaptability, and institutional mastery.

In each role, Mrs Noor has consistently delivered outstanding results, earning the trust and respect of colleagues, leadership, and external partners alike. Her breadth of experience has equipped her with a rare, comprehensive understanding of the Embassy's operations, enabling her to navigate complex diplomatic, administrative, and citizen-service challenges with precision and sound judgment.

In her current role as Protocol and Consular Officer, she exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism and care. She ensures the seamless execution of diplomatic protocol while providing responsive, compassionate assistance to Indonesian nationals abroad. Mrs Noor's strong and extensive professional network within diplomatic circles and the wider community has significantly enhanced the Embassy's effectiveness, reputation, and outreach.

Mrs Noor's four decades of service are not only a testament to her loyalty, but to her sustained excellence, integrity, and impact. She has played a meaningful role in strengthening Indonesia's diplomatic presence in the United Kingdom, while also mentoring generations of staff and fostering a culture of dedication and service.

In recognising Mrs Indarty Noor with the Embassy Long Service Officer Award, we honour a truly exceptional career defined by breadth of contribution, depth of expertise, and an enduring legacy of distinguished service.

CARIBBEAN

Isabel Dolores Jimenez Jimenes, Public Relations & Marketing Specialist

Embassy of Cuba

Ms Isabel Dolores Jimenez Jimenes is nominated for this award in recognition of her outstanding professionalism, dedication, and long-standing commitment to representing Cuba internationally. Isabel has worked in support of Cuba since October 1999 and has spent over 27 years working at the Embassy, supporting the destination through the Tourist Office with a strong focus on international promotion and representation.

Ms Jimenez Jimenes consistently demonstrates a high level of professionalism, seriousness, and commitment in her role. She approaches her work with a strong sense of responsibility, ensuring that all tasks are carried out to an excellent standard and that the organisation is represented with integrity. Her willingness to accept challenges, listen to input, and contribute thoughtful, well-reasoned approaches enables her to help others solve difficult problems effectively and collaboratively.

What truly sets Jimenez Jimenes apart is her dedication beyond her core responsibilities. In addition

to her work within the Tourist Office, she actively supports the wider work of the Embassy, offering assistance whenever needed and contributing to the overall mission of representing her country. Her willingness to step in and support colleagues across teams reflects a genuine sense of commitment, public service, and teamwork. Ms Jimenez Jimenes has built strong and trusted relationships across the organisation and with external stakeholders alike, becoming a highly reliable and respected colleague.

Her collaborative approach, positive attitude, and ability to foster meaningful connections make her a key asset to both the Embassy and the wider diplomatic community. For these reasons, is highly deserving of this recognition.

Elieth ‘Veron’ Gillespie-Thorpe, Senior Clerk

High Commission of Jamaica

Mrs Gillespie Thorpe has consistently demonstrated the qualities that define true long term service: reliability, integrity, leadership, and a genuine passion for contributing to the success of the Jamaican High Commission and the well-being of all those with whom she interacts throughout her 29 years of service.

Affectionately known as Veron, she embodies consistency and excellence. She actively participates in community events and supports the High Commission at all outreach activities, whether at citizenship ceremonies, consular surgeries, or other engagements across the regions of the United Kingdom.

With her wealth of knowledge and experience, she has provided invaluable guidance to Officers, new immigrants settling in the UK, and temporary staff and new recruits within the Consular Section. She approaches every task, routine or complex, with the same level of care, attention and professionalism. Her consistency has made her a trusted and respected member of the team, someone colleagues naturally turn to for advice, and someone who has earned the respect of both peers and supervisors.

Beyond her technical skills and reliability, Mrs Gillespie Thorpe has made a significant impact through her interpersonal qualities. Her generosity, influence, and presence extend across the Jamaican and wider Caribbean community in the UK, where she is widely recognised as one of the most familiar and respected faces of the High Commission within the Diaspora.

Over the course of her long service, Mrs Gillespie Thorpe’s institutional knowledge remains invaluable, and her long term perspective has helped the organization maintain continuity and stability. Despite challenges she may have encountered over the years, she is resilient; her commitment and dedication have never wavered. An Award would be fitting.

Mrs Posher Henry, Consular Agent

High Commission of Saint Lucia

Mrs Posher Henry is deserving of an Embassy Long Service Award based on her sterling, outstanding and exemplary contribution to the work of the High Commission.

Mrs Henry functions in the role/position of Consular Agent and has responsibility for processing applications for new and renewal passports, travel visas and emergency travel documents. While she carries out her functions under the supervision of a diplomatic officer,

she has for years functioned as the de facto manager of the one-person Passport Office, a fact which speaks to her unrivalled expertise in passport and immigration matters, and the confidence which she has generated among colleagues at the High Commission and at Immigration Headquarters, and among the Saint Lucian community in the UK. As a result of her dedication, experience, expertise and sheer tenacity, a number of incidents and outcomes carrying potentially damaging implications for the country have been averted.

The Passport Office is a high-pressure office due to the high volume of transactions and the demands placed upon it by clients. The very high (95%) rating from clients and collaborators is attributable to Mrs Henry’s highly commendable management of the functions associated with that office.

Over the years, Mrs Henry has contributed significantly to raising the profile of the High Commission through the development and maintenance of excellent working relations with stakeholder departments (Immigration HQ, Civil Status Registry, National Insurance Corporation, and Citizenship Unit of the Ministry of Home Affairs), the improved quality of services rendered to nationals and friends of Saint Lucia, the enhanced trust and confidence attributable to the work of the Passport Office, and the changed outlook of clients generally, as evidenced by the very positive social media reviews enjoyed by the High Commission, many of which refer to her. Mrs Henry has been a truly invaluable asset to the Saint Lucia High Commission.

EUROPE

Karel Bartošík, Researcher, Economic Section Embassy of the Czech Republic

Karel officially holds the position as a member of the Economic and Commercial Section of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London, with further responsibilities in protocol agenda. Having worked at the Czech Embassy for more than 19 years, he epitomises the very idea that this Award seeks to recognise: an indispensable and oftentimes unseen driving force, without which our mission simply could not function as effectively as it does and will not be such a pleasant place as it is.

As an economic researcher, Mr Bartošík has made invaluable contribution to the relations of the two countries supporting and connecting Czech and British businesses. He also maintains close relationships with the FCDO and other embassies, but his influence extends far beyond his job description. He provides vital continuity in an ever-changing team and valuable support to the diplomats, especially when they arrive to London facing the first wave of administrative burden, Mr Bartošík helps everyone to find their way around. He ensures that they settle in and integrate into the British community in no time.

What truly sets Mr Bartošík apart is his buoyant character. He lightens the office mood through kind small gestures, like providing Czech candies or cracking jokes.

Karel Bartošík does not look for fame, but we strongly believe he deserves to be recognised and appreciated for his professionalism, kindness and enthusiasm.

James Frank Vowls, Driver Embassy of Germany

Mr James Vowls was hired as a janitor at the Embassy on

February 1, 1990. Throughout his 36 years of service, he has performed his duties with great dedication. He pursued further training in electrical engineering and plumbing at his own expense. Due to his outstanding performance and reliability, he was promoted to driver in August 2001 and was primarily assigned to the Ambassador. In addition to driving, his responsibilities include vehicle maintenance and route planning. Mr Vowls has successfully completed training on armoured service vehicles. During official visits, he can also be assigned to transport high-ranking visitors in convoys.

He has been a trusted and outstanding member of the Embassy staff. He has, in particular, demonstrated great professionalism, especially as the Ambassador's driver. His dedication, punctuality, and discretion deserve to be specially recognised. He has been a valued team player and colleague among Embassy staff. His sense of loyalty and honesty is remarkable. The German ambassadors hold him in the highest esteem both personally and professionally.

Reverend Ivano Millico, Administrative Assistant, Apostolic Nunciature, Holy See

Father Ivano Millico has worked at this Apostolic Nunciature for the last 10 years, offering invaluable and discreet administrative support in the most delicate areas of this Diplomatic Mission's work. He has undertaken this service while also managing many other engagements in his parish, university chaplaincy and in offering support to those in need of pastoral accompaniment.

Despite his many responsibilities, Father Ivano has always served this Mission cheerfully and sought to encourage and support other members of staff, especially in more difficult moments. Much of his work is, by its nature, 'behind the scenes' and is thus something of a thankless task. The Apostolic Nunciature would like to nominate him for the Embassy Long Service Award for his lengthy and dedicated service, which will be coming to an end this summer.

Fatmire Sefaj, Accounts & Admin Embassy of Kosovo

Mrs Fatmire Sefaj has served the Embassy of Kosovo for 17 years. Hard work and dedication define her every step, shaping not only her own path but also the environment around her. She is someone who shows up consistently, no matter the challenge, bringing both resilience and determination to everything she undertakes. Whether faced with tight deadlines, complex tasks, or unexpected obstacles, she approaches each situation with a calm focus and a strong sense of responsibility.

Her commitment goes beyond simply completing her duties. She is always ready to lend a hand, offering support to colleagues and creating a sense of unity within the team. People naturally turn to her for guidance because she listens carefully, responds thoughtfully, and takes action when it matters most. Her willingness to step in, even when it's not required, reflects a genuine care for others and a deep understanding of teamwork.

At the heart of the embassy, she stands as a pillar of strength and reliability. Her presence brings stability, and her work ethic sets a standard that inspires those around her.

More than just a dedicated professional, she

embodies integrity, perseverance, and compassion. Her contributions may not always seek the spotlight, but their impact is felt every day. She is, without question, the rock of the Embassy someone whose hard work, dedication, and unwavering support make a lasting difference to everyone fortunate enough to work alongside her.

Nerissa Sultana, Head of Public Diplomacy High Commission of Malta

Ms Nerissa Sultana has been a dedicated member of the High Commission for 21 years, consistently going above and beyond not only in fulfilling her official responsibilities but also in supporting the diaspora in any way she can. Her commitment is matched by her genuine kindness and her heart of gold, qualities that have touched countless lives.

She leads by example, demonstrating integrity, compassion, and an unwavering sense of duty. Her work ethic and selflessness make her a true role model to others, and her impact extends far beyond the scope of her role.

Špela Vrbnjak, Public & Cultural Diplomacy Officer Embassy of Slovenia

Ms Špela Vrbnjak has served as the Embassy's Public & Cultural Diplomacy Officer since 2011. Over the course of her distinguished 15-year tenure, she has been a cornerstone of the Embassy's cultural outreach efforts.

Her exceptional work in organising and coordinating a wide array of cultural events, facilitating the presence of Slovenian artists in the UK and promoting meaningful cross-cultural exchanges has been invaluable and makes her deserving of the Embassy Long Service Officer Award.

MIDDLE EAST

Laila Naciri, Protocol Secretary Embassy of Bahrain

Ms Laila Naciri has worked at the Embassy of Bahrain for 17 years. Her expertise in diplomatic protocol has been instrumental in ensuring the smooth planning and execution of official engagements, high-level visits and ceremonial events.

She has consistently demonstrated professionalism, integrity, and a strong commitment to the embassy. Ms Naciri's willingness to go above and beyond, combined with a calm and solutions-focused approach. She always offers her unconditional support.

Ms Naciri's adaptability, dedication, and positive attitude have enabled her to navigate challenges effectively while continuing to deliver excellent results and is therefore deserving of recognition.

Hala Wahby, Secretary/Accounts Embassy of Jordan

Mrs Hala Wahby is an exceptionally deserving candidate for the Embassy Long Service Officer Award, having dedicated more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Embassy. Her unwavering commitment and loyalty are exemplary, reflected in her consistent professionalism, integrity, and readiness to go above and beyond in support of the mission. Over the decades, she has served under many Ambassadors and supported tens of diplomats, providing invaluable continuity, institutional

knowledge, and stability.

Mrs Wahby is a hugely valued member of the team, known for her reliability, discretion, and collaborative spirit. Her ability to build strong working relationships and uphold the highest standards has made a lasting impact on both the Embassy's operations and its workplace culture. Her sustained dedication and outstanding contributions make her truly deserving of this recognition.

Raghida Haddad, Ambassador's Secretary

Embassy of Kuwait

Over the course of her distinguished tenure for over 28 years, Mrs Raghida Haddad has demonstrated exceptional dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the mission.

She consistently performs duties with remarkable efficiency, discretion and attention to detail, ensuring the smooth functioning of the Ambassador's office even under the most demanding circumstances. For her distinguished long service we believe Ms Haddad is worthy of the Long Service Award.

Usama Mohran, Accountant

Embassy of Qatar

Mr Usama Mohran is nominated for the Embassy Long Service Officer of the Year Award 2026 in recognition of his exceptional dedication, professionalism, and more than three decades of continuous service at the Qatar Embassy, where he has served since 1989.

As one of the longest-serving locally engaged staff members, Mr Mohran has devoted his entire career to supporting the mission and, most notably, generations of Qatari students studying in the United Kingdom. In his role as Accountant, he has been entrusted with managing a substantial and complex budget, overseeing scholarships, stipends, and operational expenditures with the highest standards of accuracy, integrity, and accountability.

His work has been critical to ensuring the financial stability and efficiency of the Cultural Attaché Office, directly impacting the academic journeys and well-being of thousands of students over the years. Beyond his financial responsibilities.

Mr Mohran plays a central role in the day-to-day running of the office, providing continuity, stability, and institutional memory through numerous leadership transitions and structural changes. He has successfully adapted to the evolving policies and multiple reforms in Qatar's education and scholarship systems, ensuring smooth implementation without disruption to services.

Widely respected for his reliability, discretion, and professionalism, he has consistently handled sensitive financial matters with care and diligence, while also maintaining strong relationships with stakeholders and serving as a trusted point of contact for students and colleagues alike.

His deep institutional knowledge has been invaluable in mentoring new staff and supporting leadership in decision-making processes. For his 27 years of dedicated service he is deserving of the Long Service Award.

Oceania

John Mantripp, Supplier Relationship Manager High Commission of New Zealand/NZ Defence Staff

Mr John Mantripp marks an exceptional 40 years of service with the New Zealand Government in May 2026, having joined the New Zealand High Commission in 1986. A cornerstone of the mission, he is widely known as the office's IT guru and a trusted source of knowledge, always generous in supporting colleagues.

In his role as Supplier Relationship Manager, Mr Mantripp has built strong, lasting connections with stakeholders both internally and externally. A natural mentor, he plays a key role in guiding new staff and fostering a collaborative, respectful environment.

Known for his professionalism, integrity, and strong work ethic, Mr Mantripp also brings warmth and positivity to the office every day. A dedicated advocate for Civilian Staff, he cares deeply about the mission and its work for New Zealand.

Adored by colleagues, Mr Mantripp is truly deserving of this Long Service Award.

**Please select your choice of Long Service Officer
for each region and complete the online voting form**

Closing date is 17:00 Monday 18 May

**Regional winners will be finalists for the overall
Long Service Officer of the Year 2026**