

# CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT OFFICE UK



## CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT OFFICE UK ANNUAL REPORT 2020





# FOREWORD

## BY CIGO-UK TEAM

The Cayman Islands Government Office in the UK (CIGO-UK) was off to a flying start in 2020 with a number of high level events and meetings in January and February including the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA), The All Party Parliamentary Group for the Cayman Islands (APPG), meeting the Speaker of the House, assistance to 100Women in Finance and GirlForce with a visit to London and a spectacular gala event with the Restaurant Association celebrating the Cayman Islands as a culinary capital of the world.

By mid February, following a 7.5 magnitude earthquake in Cayman and the outbreak of COVID spreading to Europe, it was evident that systems and operations would need to shift, and 2020 was soon to become the most challenging year globally. The office held a number of internal crisis meetings, and thanks to the crisis registrations on the CIGO-UK website (established in 2019) and the close partnership with Cayman's diaspora network Cayman Connection who hold a database of Caymanians overseas, the team were able to instigate a crisis communications plan to update stakeholders and Caymanians overseas on the changing landscape, including regional COVID updates, and government regulations and recommendations in the UK and the Cayman Islands. The office was soon operating in full force assisting Caymanians who needed to get home as borders around the world were closing, students who were assessing if they should try to get home and parents in Cayman concerned for their children overseas.

As did most of the world, CIGO-UK adapted to a new way of working and set up remote working systems in early March with all staff members working from home and normal phone and email operations set up.

Close partnerships and working relationships in relation to the pandemic were soon established, with the Overseas Territories' Representatives working closely together to share their respective situations and developments. The office worked closely with The Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) in the UK in conjunction with the Governor's Office in the Cayman Islands to ensure a smooth channel of information and guidance wherever possible.

As Airbridges for repatriation flights were arranged and partnerships between British Airways and the Cayman Islands were established a smooth process was created within the office to ensure that those in the most need were able to get home. A rigorous process of needs assessment and

support was developed by CIGO-UK to assist Caymanians overseas.

It was truly an honour for the team to continue serving our Caymanian people overseas and be a support to those seeking advice on their journey home, seeking consular assistance, or just needing a friendly ear to speak to while remaining in the UK.

As Caymanians and students decided to return to the UK after the summer during a brief period of eased lockdown, CIGO-UK partnered with Cayman Connection to produce a “Digital Welcome Pack” to assist those retiring to the UK with information and guidance about COVID life in the UK and regulations across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

As remote working became the new norm, CIGO-UK continued to assist Caymanians overseas and represent the Cayman Islands on various online forums, including the Island Innovation Small Island Summit on the topic of the post-Brexit and post-COVID landscape, and the Caribbean Transitional Energy Conference (CTEC) discussing matters and initiatives for a sustainable future for the Cayman Islands.

Other global issues for the Cayman Islands outside of COVID in 2020 (financial services and environmental matters, including working towards a more sustainable future for the Cayman Islands) were still a priority for CIGO-UK who were instrumental in negotiations towards the removal of the jurisdiction from the EU blacklist. CIGO-UK worked closely with the Friends of Cayman group to establish an Environmental Working Group to assess and assist with the National Conservation Council (NCC)’s strategy following their report in June on “Seizing the Moment to Transition to a Greener Economy”, and preparing for the opportunity that the UK-hosted UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, provides for closer cooperation and agreement between Cayman and the UK on environmental priorities and action.

Discussions about the UK’s exit from the EU were ongoing throughout the year in anticipation of the January 2021 deadline, and the CIGO-UK represented the Cayman Islands in the Overseas Countries and Territories Association to handle issues around what the future held for the UK OTs within the Association.

As the topic of mental health gained more



**COVID-19**  
gov.ky/coronavirus

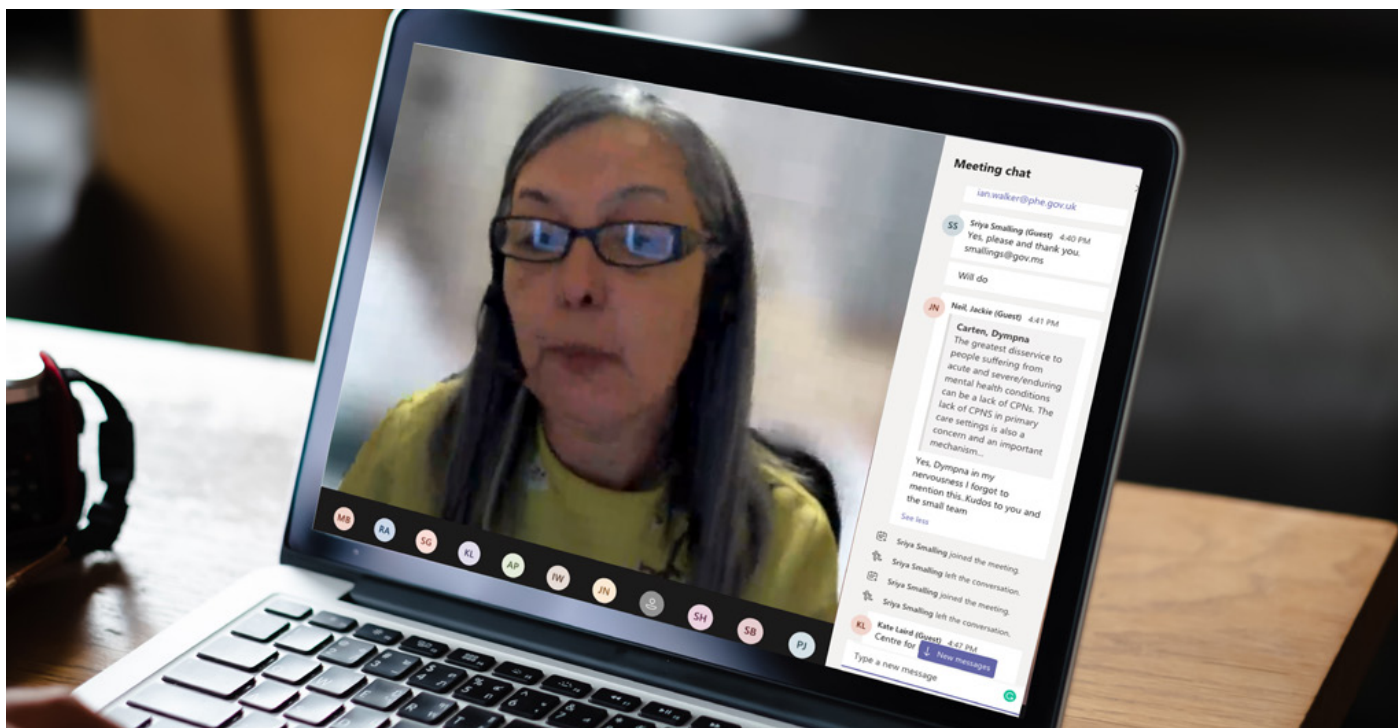
**STAY  
SAFE  
CAYMAN  
SAVE LIVES**

## Travel Bulletin

For the latest travel news from the Cayman Islands Government, visit  
[www.explore.gov.ky/travel](http://www.explore.gov.ky/travel)

 CAYMAN ISLANDS  
GOVERNMENT

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attention throughout the world, the CIGO-UK assisted with finding participants and speakers for a Mental Health Webinar hosted by UKOTA to increase the understanding of Mental Health issues in Overseas Territories. Cayman Islands charity “Loud Silent Voices” were a keynote speaker at the event and provided a thought provoking discussion on the state of mental health charities in the Overseas Territories.

It was recognised that a partnership with the Cayman Islands diaspora network Cayman Connection was key to reaching and engaging with as many Caymanians around the world as possible and CIGO-UK entered into a new formal partnership with Cayman Connection in November to assist their efforts to connect and support Caymanians around the world. The partnership includes funding for more events and networking opportunities, weekly “virtual yard meetings” to support Caymanians, as well as closer communications strategies between the organisations.

CIGO-UK closed the year with a virtual Christmas party with Cayman Connection to bring together Caymanians overseas and share a slice of Caymankind and Cayman culture to those who were not in Cayman for Christmas. The event included a partnership with Caymanian chef in the UK and Caymanian entertainers and performers in Cayman and the UK.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the CIGOUK has had another busy year and looks forward to developing the initiatives started, the new relationships forged and continuing to represent the Cayman Islands overseas into 2021.

CIGO-UK would like to thank the team, all stakeholders, volunteers, friends and associates who have assisted in continuing great work for Cayman overseas throughout 2020.

# OVERALL NATURE AND SCOPE

The Cayman Islands Government Office in the United Kingdom (CIGO-UK), established in 1982, supports the extension of the Cayman Islands Government (CIG) activities in the United Kingdom and Europe. The office provides a contact point for Cayman stakeholders, promotes economic, social, cultural, and political understanding of the Cayman Islands, and provides consular and other general governmental services to Caymanians and other stakeholders in the United Kingdom and Europe.

With the provision and feeding in of information and advice to CIG on current events, policy decisions and developments in the UK and Europe based on the office's press and media alert services, its parliamentary monitoring and reporting, European Union monitoring and reporting, observation of international trade activity, financial services activities and developments, and other statistical data, with the advantage of the time difference, the office is able to keep CIG informed on European activity in real time.

## MISSION AND FUNCTIONS

- Support the extension of Cayman Islands Government activities in the United Kingdom and Europe.
- Act as a contact point for and provide consular services to Caymanians (especially Caymanian students) and other stakeholders in the United Kingdom and Europe.
- Promote a better economic, social, cultural, and political understanding of the Cayman Islands.
- Gather and disseminate accurate information.
- Develop and maintain strategic links.
- Facilitate inward investment opportunities by providing accurate business establishment information to potential investors.
- Represent the Cayman Islands in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA), the EU Overseas Countries and Territories Association (EU-OCTA), and at other official, diplomatic and ceremonial events.
- Improve and strengthen the country's position – politically, economically, and commercially – within the United Kingdom and Europe.



Left to right: Denison Miller,  
Charles Parchment, André Ebanks,  
Phillippa Knights, Rahat Siddiqi.  
(Not pictured: Melanie Ebanks)

## OUR PEOPLE

**André Ebanks** Representative

**Charles Parchment**, Deputy Representative

**Phillippa Knights**, Assistant Representative (Culture, Social & Student Affairs)

**Denison Miller**, Assistant Representative (Consular Affairs)

**Rahat Siddiqi**, Business Manager

**Melanie Ebanks**, Administrative & Communications Assistant

CIGO-UK also contracts external consultants when it requires specialist advice and/or assistance with material projects.

In addition, the CIGO-UK liaises with Her Majesty's Government (HMG), policymakers and officials, NGOs, international organisations and other stakeholders; arranges meetings, conferences, and other strategic functions and participates along with CIG delegations during official visits; liaises with relevant private sector stakeholders on behalf of CIG; administers and supports the functioning of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the Cayman Islands, and attends and participates in UKOTA and the EU-OCTA meetings and related activities.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS WORK IN 2020 INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

### **Diplomatic Engagement**

PG 8

in conjunction with UKOTA activities

The CIGO-UK's regular diplomatic annual involvement and functions were scaled down as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns and isolated working environments but the office continued to work with UKOTA, OCTA, APPGs and attended other virtual parliamentary events as well as the Friends of Cayman group (FOC), and various Ministries and departments at HMG, primarily to disseminate appropriate information about the Cayman Islands.

- 1) Meeting with new speaker of the house, Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
- 2) APPG Overseas Territory meeting
- 3) Virtual Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) meeting

### **Restaurant Association Gala Dinner**

PG 11

The Cayman Islands participated in the British Restaurant Association annual Gala Dinner to showcase the Cayman Islands as the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean, offering a Heads or Tails prize stay at the Kimpton Seafire Resort.

**The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith, Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and Stanley Johnson, (father of Boris Johnson PM), met with UKOTA members to discuss environmental funding.**

PG 11

### **GirlForce**

PG 12

CIGO-UK assisted GirlForce Cayman and 100 Women in Finance with a Westminster tour and partnered with Cayman Connection to host a tour of the City of London.

[www.cigouk.ky/girlforce](http://www.cigouk.ky/girlforce)

### **Vin d' honneur From Majesty Queen**

PG 12

**Elizabeth for Her Excellency Barbara Elena Montalvo Alvarez**

Phillippa Knights attended the Vin d' honneur from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for Her Excellency Barbara Elena Montalvo Alvarez, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba.

### **CIGO-UK assisted with the removal of the Cayman Islands from the EU blacklist**

PG 13

The CIGO-UK was instrumental in assisting the CIG in negotiations to have the Cayman Islands removed from the EU blacklist.

### **CIGO-UK supported Caymanians Overseas**

PG 14

The CIGO-UK shifted gears early in March to focus on Caymanians in the UK. CIGO-UK attended to the questions and concerns of overseas Caymanians including providing general advice, guidance and updates for those contemplating whether to remain in the UK and assisted with travel arrangements for those who were determined to leave the UK.

[www.cigouk.ky/supporting-caymanians-overseas](http://www.cigouk.ky/supporting-caymanians-overseas)

### **CIGO-UK assisted with getting necessary PPE to Cayman**

PG 15

[www.cigouk.ky/british-airways-flight-arrives-in-grand-cayman/](http://www.cigouk.ky/british-airways-flight-arrives-in-grand-cayman/)

### **CIGO-UK assisted Caymanians returning home**

PG 16

CIGO-UK assisted in arranging and ensuring successful Airbridge flights between London Heathrow and Grand Cayman.

[www.cigouk.ky/students-returning-to-cayman-from-the-uk](http://www.cigouk.ky/students-returning-to-cayman-from-the-uk)

### **CIGO-UK passed on travel responsibilities to Travel Time, while still offering assistance on the ground when needed**

PG 16

Staff at the CIGO-UK passed on much of the logistics to the newly formed 'Travel Time' team in Cayman but continued to work hard and put in long hours as part of the cross-government group to ensure the continued successful process for Airbridge flights from London to Cayman.

CIGO-UK were pleased to pass the baton to TravelTime, at the Ministry of International Trade, Investment, Aviation and Maritime Affairs (MITIAMA), who assumed the responsibility as of 1st July 2020.  
<https://www.cigouk.ky/traveltime-ready-to-serve/>

### **Digital Welcome pack production and release**

PG 17

CIGO-UK partnered with Cayman Connection UK (CCUK) to launch a Digital Welcome Pack to assist Caymanians living in or moving to the UK.  
[www.cigouk.ky/welcome-to-the-uk/](http://www.cigouk.ky/welcome-to-the-uk/)

### **Friends of Cayman welcomed new chair and new working group**

PG 17

The Friends of Cayman Group welcomed Stephen Webster as the incoming Chair, and in addition to the Financial services and Environmental working groups, formed a new Working Group to focus on community outreach.

### **CIGO-UK hired Senior Public Affairs Consultant**

PG 18

CIGO-UK hired The Rt. Hon. Mark Field as a senior public affairs consultant. Mr. Field is a former MP and FCO Minister who represented the prestigious central London constituency of the Cities of London and Westminster in the UK Parliament between June 2001 and November 2019.

### **André Ebanks joined high level panel at CTEC 2020**

PG 19

André Ebanks spoke on a panel at the Caribbean Transitional Energy Conference (CTEC) discussing the future of green economy for the Cayman Islands.  
[www.cigouk.ky/andre-ebanks-sepaks-at-ctec-2020](http://www.cigouk.ky/andre-ebanks-sepaks-at-ctec-2020)

### **André Ebanks participated on a panel for Island Innovation Small Islands Summit**

PG 19

The partnership that the Cayman Islands embraced with other Overseas Territories and the UK in responding to COVID-19 has been held up as an example of how our jurisdictions can prosper collectively even after the UK leaves the European Union and focuses on the concept of 'Global Britain'.  
[www.cigouk.ky/collaboration-key-to-collective-prosperity/](http://www.cigouk.ky/collaboration-key-to-collective-prosperity/)

### **UKOTA mental Health webinar**

PG 21

The United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) hosted a powerful Mental Health Webinar on 9 December to increase the understanding of Mental Health issues in Overseas Territories (OTs).  
[www.cigouk.ky/ukota-mental-health-webinar](http://www.cigouk.ky/ukota-mental-health-webinar)

### **Virtual Yard Meetings**

PG22

CIGO-UK partnered with CCUK to host online virtual meetings and events for Caymanians overseas.

### **Virtual Christmas Party in partnership with Cayman Connection (CCUK)**

PG22

A virtual Cayman cultural Christmas event was organised to alleviate homesickness and share some Caymankind together in December 2020.  
[www.caymanconnection.org/2020/12/21/christmas-caymankind-for-caymanians-overseas](http://www.caymanconnection.org/2020/12/21/christmas-caymankind-for-caymanians-overseas)

### DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH UKOTA ACTIVITIES



*Top: Lord Goldsmith MP, Tracy Knight (TCI), Sir Lindsay Hoyle (Speaker of the House), Kedell Worboys (St. Helena), Janice Panton (MON) Chris Carnegy (TdC)*

*Bottom: Dominique Searle (GIB), Richard Hyslop (FI) André Ebanks (CI) Kimberley Durrant (BER)*

#### 1. Meeting with new Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP

On Tuesday 21 January UKOTA held two important meetings in Parliament for its members. The first was a meeting with the recently elected Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP.

Sir Lindsay has been a strong supporter of the UK's Overseas Territories throughout his time in the House of Commons and was keen to meet with UKOTA members at the earliest opportunity, following his election to the role of Speaker.

The meeting provided an opportunity for each Territory to update Sir Lindsay on the latest developments and key issues from their Territory. It also provided an opportunity to discuss issues of importance to all Territories, including, parliamentary overreach, how we can work with the Speaker and others to increase levels of understanding amongst MPs with regard to the OTs, and how Sir Lindsay wishes to engage with the Territories during his time as Speaker.

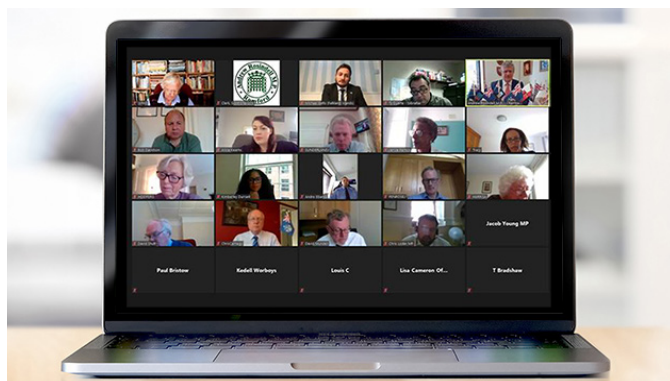
This was a really positive meeting and we are incredibly grateful for the interest that Sir Lindsay takes in the OTs. Representatives look forward to welcoming Mr. Speaker to their respective Territories in the coming years, as he expressed a strong interest to visit.

The second meeting was an opportunity to introduce UKOTA and our members to newly elected members of Parliament and to update them, and more longstanding MPs and Peers on the latest developments and key issues in each Territory. Importantly, the meeting allowed UKOTA to set out the constitutional relationship between the UK and the OTs, what powers lie where, and the legal underpinnings of the relationship. UKOTA hopes that by making this clear to politicians we can avoid some of the challenges that have arisen historically.

# KEY 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

The meeting was also an opportunity for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to give a presentation on one of their projects with the Territories. The CPA are great supporters of the OTs, it was therefore beneficial that they were able to introduce some of their work to this cross-party group of MPs and Peers.

## 2. APPG for the Overseas Territories Zoom meeting



On Wednesday 1 July, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the OTs, Chaired by Andrew Rosindell MP met virtually. This cross-party group provides a forum where members of the House of Commons and House of Lords, with an interest in the UK's Overseas Territories, can come together to discuss matters of interest relating to the Overseas Territories.

Normally these meetings are held in the House of Commons, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting had to take place via the Zoom platform.

It was encouraging that, despite the difficulties caused by the current situation, a good number of MPs and Peers found the time to participate in this meeting.

Those OT Representatives able to attend gave individual Territory updates, but the main topic for discussion was the impact of COVID-19 on the OTs and how they had each responded.

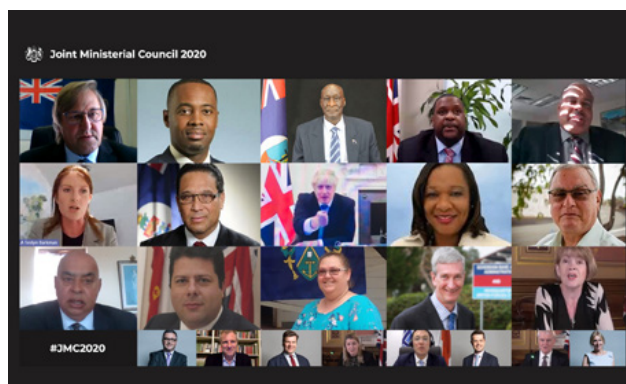
Whilst most OTs have their own APPG, this overarching APPG for the UKOTs as a collective group provides an important forum for engagement with interested Parliamentarians.

We look forward to the next meeting where hopefully we will be able to meet again in person.

## 3. Virtual Joint Ministerial Council Meeting

The 2020 Joint Ministerial Council (JMC), held virtually 23-26 November, presented the opportunity to celebrate the special partnership between the UK and the OTs.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson joined OT elected leaders at the JMC, and representatives from OTs and the UK held wide ranging discussions on a number of topics, including economic issues, COVID-19 response and recovery, protecting vulnerable groups and protecting the environment



in both the run up to COP26, which is being held in the UK in 2021.

Leaders heard from His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, ahead of discussions on the environment at COP26, showing the importance the UK puts on its relationship with the OTs, recognising the value the UK places on the huge contribution the OTs have on the entirety of the UK's biodiversity as a whole.

The UK outlined support for border security, prisons and criminal justice in the Overseas Territories.



At the conclusion of the JMC, UK Ministers and OT Leaders agreed a joint communique.

**Prime Minister Boris Johnson, speaking at the opening of the JMC said:**

“The UK is absolutely committed to you, to your futures and to our partnership.”

“As we go forward and recover from this pandemic, we want to make sure that we build back greener and that we look after island economies that are so vulnerable to climate change.”

“In spite of everything, of the difficulties we are going through, we remember that we are united by deep ties of kinship and friendship and history and values. We in the UK government are going to make sure we continue to intensify that partnership.”

**Minister Morton, Minister responsible for Falklands and Gibraltar who chaired much of the JMC, said:**

“Our Overseas Territories are part of the UK family. We take our responsibilities towards them extremely seriously, whether that means working with them to defend the OTs from threats, helping preserve the natural environment, or supporting OTs in times of crisis – as we have with COVID-19. When we face global challenges we face them together”

The UK government assures it remains committed to the partnership with the OTs and to working together so communities flourish as modern, prosperous and strong democracies.

# KEY 2020

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Restaurant Association Gala Dinner



*\*Robert Walton (President of the British Restaurant Association),  
André Ebanks (CIGO-UK)*

The Cayman Islands participated in the British Restaurant Association annual Gala Dinner to showcase the Cayman Islands as the Culinary Capital of the Caribbean, offering a Heads or Tails prize stay at the Kimpton Seafire Resort.

**The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park is the Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and Stanley Johnson, father of The Rt Hon Boris Johnson PM, meet with UKOTA members to discuss environmental funding.**

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) also in attendance.



### Girlforce



*\*GirlForce Group at Palace of Westminster, Yeny Rego parent, Asia Bush, Suhina Lally, Renee Caudeiron, Katrina Ebanks, parent, Kristina Ebanks, Phillippa Knights, Assistant Representative*

CCUK and Cayman Islands Government Office in the UK (CIGO-UK) assisted GirlForce and 100Women in Finance with London trip.

London, United Kingdom – CCUK and CIGO-UK facilitated tours for a London visit by Kristina Ebanks and Asia Bush.

The two students won an essay competition organised by GirlForce, a mentoring group run by 100Women in Finance (Cayman).

The students travelled to London with their families and GirlForce 100 Mentors to attend a reception held at Buckingham Palace in celebration of 100 Women in Finance's (100WF) Investing in the Next Generation initiatives, hosted by HRH The Countess of Wessex, Global Ambassador of 100WF's Next Generation Initiatives.

The mentees' attendance at the reception was also part of a wider week of educational visits and tours facilitated by the Cayman Islands Government Office and 100WF.

The students, their mentors and parents joined a tour of the Houses of Westminster, where they learnt about the UK's government and political system, and visited areas of the House of Commons not usually accessible to the general public.

CIGO-UK was able to organise an exclusive tour of the Palace of Westminster for Ms. Ebanks, Ms. Bush, their mothers and their GirlForce mentors.

Phillippa Knights, Assistant Representative and Government Student Liaison for Cayman Government in the UK, who organised the tour, said *"It was a delight to host the GirlForce Group and be part of a cultural and informative tour of Parliament."*

Cayman Connection UK (CCUK), a network for Caymanians overseas, also organised city walking tours for visiting Caymanians and assisted in the organisation of a tour of the City of London with partner Joolz Guides. The tour showed the group the history of the City of London and stopped off at some iconic London venues.

# KEY 2020

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Kristina Ebanks, GirlForce 100 mentee and essay winner, said of the tours *"It was fascinating to see the Palace of Westminster; there are such impressive buildings and we learned a lot about UK politics. The city tour was great fun, we saw a lot of London. Our guide was very amusing, but it was cold!"*

GirlForce Mentor and Maples Group associate Audrey Rankin commented that she enjoyed the tours, finding them very educational, *"especially for the mentees"*. Ms. Rankin concluded by thanking the Cayman Islands Government Office and Cayman Connection UK for facilitating the tours.

Cayman Islands Representative André Ebanks said of the visit: *"Our office was thrilled to help 100WF (Cayman) facilitate a London visit for two young female Caymanian high school students who wish to explore a career in financial services."*



*\*GirlForce Group with L-R – Charles Parchment, Cayman Islands Deputy Representative, Suhina Lally, Renee Caudeiron, Kristina Ebanks, Katrina Ebanks, Yeny Rego, Asia Bush and André Ebanks, Cayman Islands Representative.*

*"Watching their excited faces, and each of their mothers' excited faces, before, during and after planned activities was a joy for our office team to see. It was also evidence that positive exposure, however brief, can inspire a young person to aim high in their desired careers, and in the process learn how they can contribute to gender balance in the financial services industry."*

### Vin d' honneur From Majesty Queen Elizabeth for Her Excellency Barbara Elena Montalvo Alvarez



*\*Irene Orozco (CI Department of Tourism), Embassy of Cuba, Phillippa Knights (CIGO-UK)*

Phillippa Knights attended the Vin d' honneur from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for Her Excellency Barbara Elena Montalvo Alvarez, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba.

### CIGO-UK assisted with the removal of the Cayman Islands from the EU blacklist

The CIGO-UK was instrumental in assisting the CIG in negotiations to have the Cayman Islands removed from the EU blacklist.

The Cayman Islands is an international financial centre and protecting its reputation as a centre that is regulated in accordance with global standards is vital and is one of CIGO-UK's remits. Therefore, nowhere is this more important than in London and the CIGO-UK has been playing an instrumental role in this endeavour for many years, no more so than in February 2020 when the Cayman Islands was placed on the EU's list of non-cooperative jurisdictions.

To that end, once this was confirmed, the CIGO-UK team, led by Mr Ebanks, mobilised into high gear with EU consultations and negotiations and by 6 October 2020 oversaw removal from the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions.

Continued protection and defence of this vital industry is essential for confidence in the Cayman Islands investment environment, as by nature there will always be a need to take similar measures to prevent reputational damage to the largest pillar of the economy.

Further, COVID-19 recovery requires an extra active effort from all CIG ministries, departments and their support systems along with industry and private sector, and this is why the CIGO-UK is well placed to bring all of the necessary entities together in this effort.

Along with other negotiating approaches, the CIGO-UK helped the CIG to get the following points across in the effort to have the Cayman Islands removed from the EU Blacklist:

- Argue how there is mutual benefit in cooperating more at 'equal footing.
- Explain that though they may be small, territories (like Cayman) may have specific expertise and experience that could benefit the EU.
- As an important financial centre in the world, Cayman could contribute to EU policy objectives such as sustainable finance.
- Cayman is very happy to open a dialogue on this and other topics with EU stakeholders going forward in order to ensure that EU stakeholders fully understand Cayman's commitment in the delisting process, by explaining the regulatory impact in plain, conversational (non-legalistic) language
- Highlighting Cayman's further commitment to fair taxation, including on BO adaptation and AML, efforts based on mutual respect for tax sovereignty, neutrality and local democratic consumption based processes ( mention that the EU should 'lead the way' in order to be credible, which Cayman supports)
- Making the point that there's mutual benefit in discussing other topics (including sustainable finance) on 'equal footing' (and launch a public request for dialogue to do so)



### CIGO-UK supported Caymanians Overseas

CIGO-UK attended to the questions and concerns of overseas Caymanians including providing general advice, guidance and updates for those contemplating whether to remain in the UK and assisted with travel arrangements for those who were determined to leave the UK prior to the Cayman Islands airport closing Sunday, 22 March.

The Office turned its attention fully to those Caymanians who remained in the UK and worked closely with Cayman Connection UK in order to not only disseminate messages and to ensure Caymanians knew where to go for information and support, but also to develop a virtual community of support and togetherness during a time of restricted physical gathering.

*"The enhanced UK measures mean that now more than ever, Caymanians who stayed in the UK may feel isolated and even further from home and family and this is following a very difficult decision not to return. We want to ensure that remaining Caymanians do not feel like they have nowhere to turn. We are encouraging Caymanians remaining in the UK to register with a new online portal developed specifically for those who did not return home. We are working with networks and individuals and will join community zoom calls and initiatives to help Caymanians to feel more engaged with the virtual Cayman community overseas."*

- Cayman Connection & CIGO-UK

# KEY 2020

## ACHIEVEMENTS

*"For any of us being stuck away from our home is stressful especially in the circumstances that currently prevail. The support and sympathetic understanding we received from the staff in both the Governor's office in the Cayman Islands and the London Office was comforting and most welcome. You all did such a marvellous job in supporting us with your prompt communication and kind assistance. Thank you!"*

- Stuart J. Dack.

### **CIGO-UK assisted with getting necessary PPE to Cayman**

The British Airways flight arrived in Grand Cayman on 6 April. The flight carried vital supplies for the Islands including urgent pharmaceuticals, personal protective equipment and test kits.

The flight returned 58 Caymanian students and other residents to the Island. On arrival the passengers were checked by Public Health and were immediately transferred by bus to a government quarantine facility. They remained in highly supervised isolation for 14 days, after which

they were tested for COVID-19 before being able to return to their family homes.

Before landing on Grand Cayman the BA flight made a scheduled stop in Bermuda allowing 129 Bermudans to return home and for supplies to be delivered to the Overseas Territory.

The plane also allowed for a UK advisory team to travel to the Turks and Caicos Islands, to provide medical, operational and security expertise to local authorities.

The return leg of the flight departed on 7 April, where 131 people of varying nationalities left Cayman for London Heathrow.

Governor Martyn Roper said: *"This flight has taken considerable effort to arrange at a time when moving people and consignments around the world is a global challenge. Its arrival has enabled vital supplies to be delivered to Cayman and increases our capacity for testing. It has also allowed many people to return home to both Cayman and Bermuda."*



\*BA flight arriving in Cayman with PPE

*The utmost care will be taken to isolate those returning travellers to limit the risk to the population to the absolute minimum. Tomorrow's outbound flight will enable 131 people to return home from Cayman via London Heathrow. I am grateful for the support of the Premier in allowing this flight to land and to everyone who has been involved in its planning. I would like to thank André Ebanks and his team at the Cayman Islands Government Office in London, Matthew Forbes, head of my office and his team and British Airways for outstanding collaboration and teamwork to make this happen in difficult circumstances."*

## CIGO-UK assisted Caymanians returning home



*\*André Ebanks and Charles Parchment at Heathrow Airport*

CIGO-UK assisted in arranging Airbridge flights to and from London Heathrow to Grand Cayman. Multiple news bulletins were sent out in order to assist Caymanians with need-to-know information during the early stages of COVID-19.

Officers from CIGO-UK also went to Heathrow airport, or were standing by remotely, to monitor the check-in process for the flights to Cayman in case any consular services or travel issues arose.

## CIGO-UK passed on travel responsibilities to Travel Time, still offering assistance where needed



2020 was a busy time for all government entities, and CIGO-UK worked hard as part of a cross-government group to ensure that the process for the Airbridge flights from London to Cayman on the 11 June and 2 July were as seamless as possible.

We were pleased to pass the baton to Travel Time on 1 July 2020, at the Ministry of International Trade, Investment, Aviation and Maritime Affairs (MITIAMA), who at that point assumed responsibility with the CIGO-UK continuing to play vital roles and assisting Travel Time on the ground and at LHR if needed.

All persons who wanted to travel to and from the Cayman Islands until the borders reopened were told to register with Travel Time. This enabled Travel Time to be the single point of contact for registration and ensured their new register of interested travellers was up to date.

We have cherished many messages of thanks from those who have returned home since the COVID-19 global outbreak. It was our absolute pleasure to



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help stranded residents return to their homes and families in our beloved Islands.

“The positive experience out of the whole thing was how the CIGO-UK helped me return from Italy. Being able to talk to someone who understood the anxiety and worry about how to organise flights during a pandemic from another country outside of England...I am so grateful for their reassurances because I really felt like it wouldn't be a possibility to return home.”

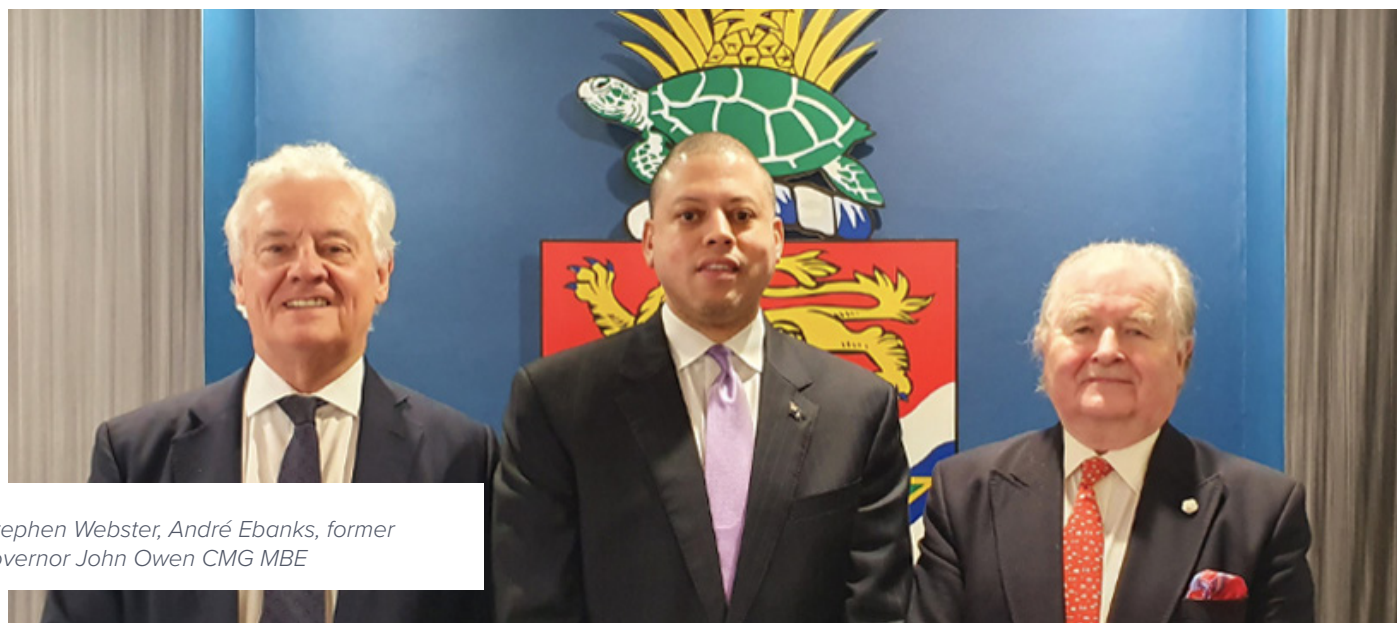
– Alessandra Lanzoni-Rivers



### Digital Welcome Pack production and release

CIGO-UK partnered with CCUK to launch a Digital Welcome Pack to assist Caymanians living in or moving to the UK.

This was an incredibly helpful resource throughout 2020 to provide fast and accurate information on repatriation flights and COVID-19 updates both in the UK and in Cayman.



*\*Stephen Webster, André Ebanks, former Governor John Owen CMG MBE*

### Friends of Cayman welcomes new Chair and new working groups

The Friends of Cayman (FoC) Group welcomed Stephen Webster as the incoming Chair, thanking former Governor John Owen CMG MBE for his years of service as Chair.

Previously, the FoC was comprised of the core group, within which there were Financial Services and Environmental working groups. In 2020 the

FoC expanded. As such, a new working group focusing on Community Outreach was established. The new Community Outreach Working Group works with Cayman Connection to enhance the sense of community and to assist with hosting various events for Caymanians overseas, to keep the connection to Cayman culture alive and thriving in the UK.

### CIGO-UK hired senior public affairs consultant



CIGO-UK hired The Rt. Hon. Mark Field as a senior public affairs consultant. Mr. Field is a former MP and FCO Minister who represented the prestigious central London constituency of the Cities of London and Westminster in the UK Parliament between June 2001 and November 2019.

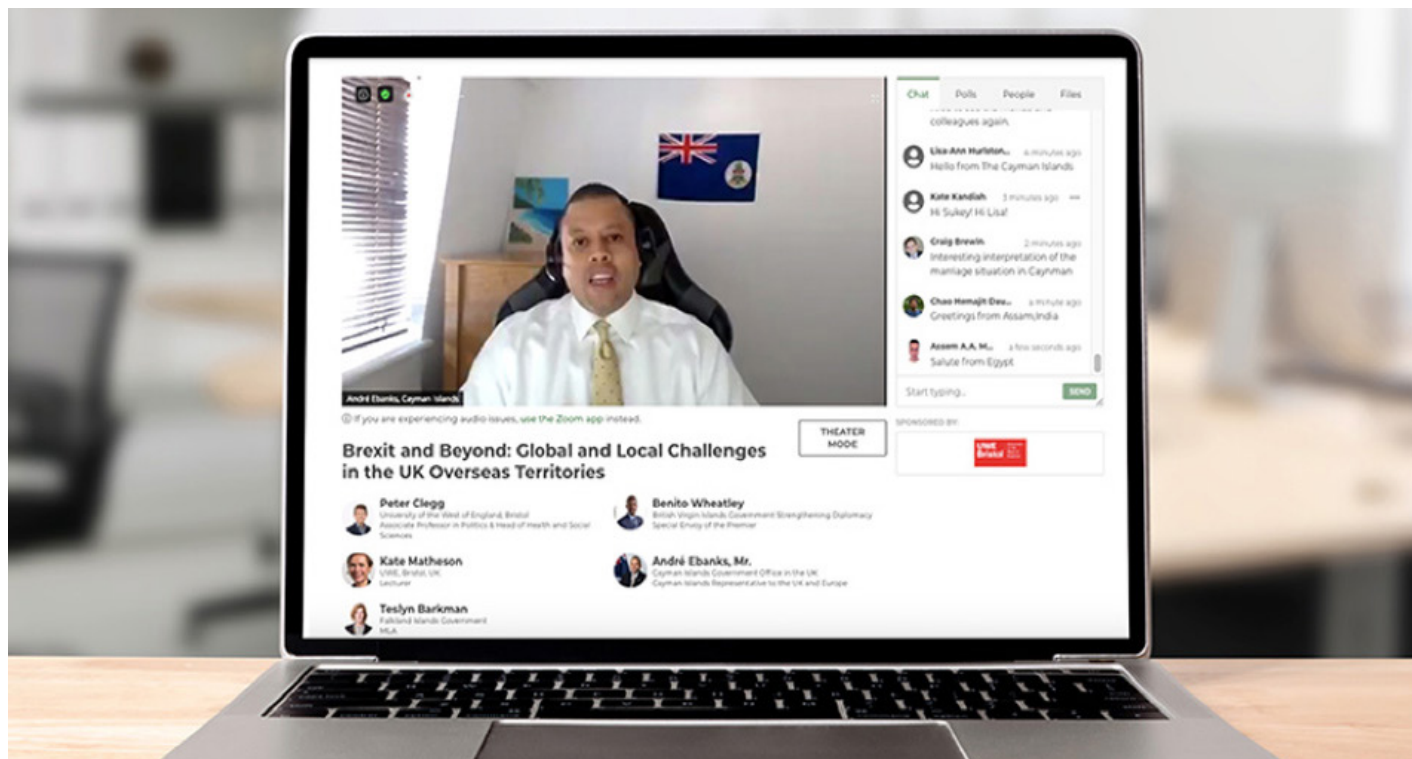
Mark's expertise, experience and networks in areas that are of vital interest to the welfare of the Cayman Islands (Energy, Environment and Financial Services), will no doubt enhance the UK team, as the CIGO-UK continues to play a leading role in conjunction with other CIG ministries and departments in our public affairs abroad.

A graduate of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, he practised as a solicitor with Freshfields in the early 1990s and then set up, ran and sold two start-up businesses before embarking upon public service.

During this time he developed an in-depth and widely recognised expertise of the City, financial and professional services at home alongside leading for the UK government's economic diplomacy in international energy strategy, cyber security and fintech/green finance during two years as the Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific.

Travelling extensively in the region he enjoyed responsibility for the bilateral relationships with China and India, developing future UK strategy and co-operation with ASEAN (he was the first UK Minister to visit all ten of its nations) and promoting the ever close security and trade partnerships with Australia and New Zealand.

### André Ebanks joined high level panel at CTEC 2020



André Ebanks spoke on a panel at the Caribbean Transitional Energy Conference (CTEC) discussing the future of green economy for the Cayman Islands. Mr. Ebanks answered the question *“How do you see the UK and Europe playing a role in supporting the initiatives that are ongoing and Cayman’s goals around building a green economy?”*

### André Ebanks participated on a panel for Island Innovation Small Islands Summit

The partnership that the Cayman Islands embraced with other OTs and the UK in responding to COVID-19 was held up as an example of how our jurisdictions can prosper collectively even after Britain left the European Union and focuses on ‘Global Britain’.

Cayman Islands Representative to the UK and Europe, André Ebanks, gave the perspective during an international panel discussion on the challenges the UK OTs faced post Brexit. The panel convened at the Virtual Island Summit, an online conference held 7 to 13 September. The Summit’s aim was to connect participants from 100-plus islands

across the globe to share common experiences, challenges, insights and approaches.

Mr. Ebanks’ panel, on Saturday 12 September, tackled the topic, “Brexit and Beyond: Global and Local Challenges in the UK Overseas Territories”.

In his remarks, Mr. Ebanks said that the COVID response, *“encapsulates the essence of the opportunity that lies ahead.”* He explained: *“From where I sit in London, I witnessed an extraordinary partnership between Cayman, our sister OTs and the UK, in response to COVID.”* He pointed out that this went deeper than the headlines of the PPE that was delivered, the test kits, and the evacuation flights, to the strong “human element” that the response demonstrated.

*“During the lockdown, particularly from late March to June, what was on full public view for Caymanians and Cayman residents to see was a highly coordinated, caring, careful, hands on deck, melt-all-barriers approach between the UK and Cayman to get things done and preserve life. Due to that fact, certain bonds of trust and fellowship have been established that won’t soon be forgotten.”*

As evidence that these bonds are being built upon, Mr. Ebanks referred to comments by HE the Governor Martyn Roper on the opportunity that this year’s UK-hosted UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, provided for closer cooperation and agreement between Cayman and the UK on environmental priorities and action.

*“No matter what form Brexit takes,” Mr. Ebanks stated, “if the UK, Cayman and the OTs get together and strive towards collective prosperity, I believe we have strong prospects. The overarching opportunity that Brexit and environmental action present is to harness the bonds that have been forged during this pandemic to build a meaningful way forward as to exactly what ‘Global Britain’ means and what it means we are as a family.”*

He added, *“A few early seeds have been planted in Cayman.”* For example, the financial services industries in the UK and Cayman could work closely to explore ways to meet the challenge of funding environmental work. As its contribution to green and blue financing, Cayman could also look to develop a niche as a domicile of choice for environmental and social governance investment funding vehicles since this jurisdiction has mastered putting together well-regulated funding vehicles and getting them to market efficiently. The OTs should also be considering whether or not the Paris Climate Agreement should be extended to them, he said.

The CI Representative shared with the panel that, on the domestic front, Cayman had taken the COVID lockdown period to do some long-range thinking and had formed the Strategic Economic Advisory Council. The Council was exploring various initiatives, including advancing renewable energy, diversifying our data services, and fostering digital payments.

Other speakers on the panel were British Virgin Islands Government Special Envoy Benito Wheatley, Falkland Islands Government MLA Hon Teslyn Barkman, and Dr Kate Matheson of the Department of Health and Social Sciences, University of the West of England (UWE). Moderator was Dr Peter Clegg, Head of the Health and Social Sciences Department, UWE. Panelists shared their respective territory’s views on the Overseas Territories’ relationship with the UK and the EU in current conversations.

A question-and-answer session followed, sparking discussion around future relationships among the jurisdictions, OT involvement in COP 26 in Scotland, and shared attempts to mitigate threats.

### **Reflecting on his involvement in the forum, Mr. Ebanks said:**

*“It was a privilege to speak at this international summit. It was important to highlight the versatility of Cayman, and the role it can play within the Global Britain family, post Brexit, in a number of potential areas of collaboration.”*

This Virtual Island Summit was the second to be held. The summits are arranged by Island Innovation, a social enterprise for sustainable development and communications. The organisation brings together the private sector, government, utilities, NGOs and universities

### UKOTA Mental Health Webinar



The United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) hosted a powerful Mental Health Webinar on 9 December to increase the understanding of Mental Health issues in Overseas Territories.

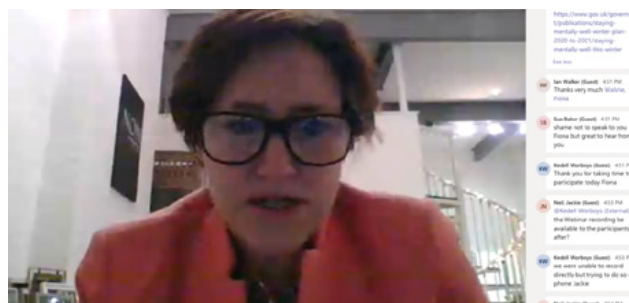
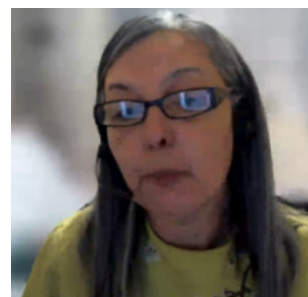
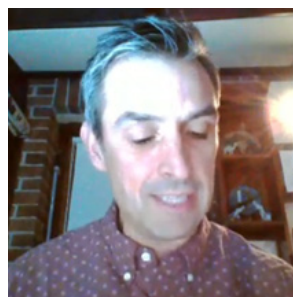
The objectives of the Mental Health Webinar were:

- to discuss context and constraints of accessing funding and technical assistance/advice
- to provide a forum for exchange of knowledge and practices;
- to engage with HMG and NGOs to better understand the support that could be available to the OTs.
- Speakers included:
  - HMG and Territory Governments
  - Loud Silent Voices – Cayman Islands
  - Centre For Mental Health, Mental Health First Aid
  - Time To Change
  - Brian Heyworth from City Mental Health Alliance.

The Event was moderated by Poppy Jaman OBE, CEO City Mental Health Alliance.

Excellent participation from all territories on such an important topic was fantastic to see.

With thanks to the speakers and the UKOTA organising team.



### Virtual Yard meetings

CIGO-UK partnered with Cayman Connection to host weekly online virtual meetings for Caymanians overseas in order to provide a sense of community and togetherness, particularly for those who may have been struggling with the isolation during COVID lockdown in the UK and not at home during challenging times.



### Virtual Christmas Party in partnership with Cayman Connection (CCUK)



Over 50 Caymanians overseas came together on 18 December 2020 for a virtual Cayman cultural Christmas event, to alleviate homesickness and share some Caymankind together.

The Cayman Connection event, in conjunction with CIGO-UK included a partnership with UK based Caymanian Chef Chad Scott, from GogoCarib, who provided 80 traditional Caymanian dishes, rum

punch, sorrel and sugar cane juice which were delivered across the UK. Rum Cakes and Caymanian gifts were included in the packages sent out to over seventy people, thanks to Tortuga Rum Cake Company.

The event, sponsored by Dart Scholar and off-shore law firm Mourant, opened with a pre-party led by Chef Chad and MC for the evening, Jevy Ebanks.

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The main event began with a welcome and words from André Ebanks, Cayman Islands Representative to the UK and Europe, and a Christmas greeting from His Excellency the Governor Martyn Roper.

Christmas performances began with Lauren Williams, a student in Liverpool, who performed a self-written spoken-word piece called “*Adjusting*”.



*\*The invitation to the Christmas Event.*

Ms. Williams introduced the poem by sharing her influences and inspiration, being a Caymanian far from home. The spoken word was followed by an enthusiastic and engaging story piece from Rita Estevanovich, who performed Roy Bodden’s “*The Christmas Cake*”.

Performances were followed by a rousing and entertaining rendition and request session from “*Jimmeh The Boss*” Sons of Steel on the steel pan, for a true slice of home.

The performances and entertainment were followed by themed breakout rooms, including a Government quiz room, music and open mic talent sessions, virtual yard chat room and games and gratitude room.

The evening ended with a grand surprise from Cayman Airways who offered 2 return tickets to any Cayman Airways destination to one lucky winner, from a prize draw, won by a Caymanian student in Newcastle studying Politics and International Relations.

### Founder and Director of Cayman Connection, Kate Kandiah commented

“I am delighted with how the event went, we had a wonderful response and we were so happy to be able to bring together so many Caymanians across the UK at this difficult time. As a non-profit community network, we have a vision and a desire to support the Cayman Islands overseas community world-wide and to know where all Caymanians are across the globe so that we can connect. This event is the perfect example of how we hope to work with entities to share Caymanian culture and Caymankind across the UK and beyond. We wish everybody a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2021.”

**COVID-19**  
gov.ky/coronavirus

**STAY  
HOME  
CAYMAN**  
SAVE LIVES

# Hailing Cayman's Heroes

While the majority of the population shelters-in-place, frontline workers are putting their lives on the line to provide our essential needs and services.

We now have a deeper understanding of the work it takes to keep our society running smoothly during these challenging times, and want to express heartfelt gratitude to **these brave heroes**.

From healthcare providers, first responders, uniformed services and public servants, to grocery store employees, gas station attendants, those at our port and airport, utility services and many other essential workers in Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, **we thank you**.

We would not be where we are today were it not for **your courage and commitment** to your jobs and to this country.

The sacrifices you are making on our behalf is truly Caymankindness.

**We thank YOU for your service.**



CAYMAN ISLANDS  
GOVERNMENT







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