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The UK government has a genuinely global network: 282 overseas posts in 179 countries, serving the interests of British citizens at home and around the world. But rarely does our network get to engage in its entirety in real time.

After the success of last year's FCO and Diplomatic Service Families Association (DSFA) Diplomile, on Saturday 15 May, we will launch our inaugural 'Globalmile'. The deliberate name change reflects our merged FCDO family and the continuing support provided by the DSFA. Already more than 200 Posts and a dozen FCDO directorates are signed up.

In recognition of the continuing impact of COVID-19, we will be raising funds (voluntarily, only if you would like to) for mental health charities, including Mind in the UK. 15 May is during the UK's mental health week, and we hope that the Globalmile will contribute to your team's wellbeing initiatives.

Following in the footsteps of the Diplomile Global Marathon

In May 2020, the FCO and DSFA's 'Diplomile' brought together 158 of our Posts – large and small – and a host of London departments, including colleagues from DFID, in a truly collective global endeavour. Around 3,400 of our colleagues and their family members passed a virtual baton around the world, forming an unbroken 24-hour relay from Samoa in the east to Vancouver in the west. Using digital technology, colleagues and families were in touch across borders, sharing stories, photos, videos and even music of what for many was a magical day.

Each participant undertook a single mile (some decided to go substantially further!), mostly on foot, occasionally not. Under lock-downs and draw-downs, many folk improvised, participating in living rooms, back gardens, gyms or patios. Dogs joined in, and even a horse! Together we completed our own virtual 'marathon' of several thousands of miles. For every minute of that wonderful 24-hour period, someone in our global network was on their feet as part of our global team.

Crucially, we came together during what was already a devastating global COVID-19 pandemic. And in doing so, together we raised more than £50,000 for COVID-related charities. The pandemic has not gone away. In several countries it is taking an even tougher toll. So we have decided to do it all again.

Save the date and join us on 15 May

We are excited about what we are sure will be another special day. We hope you will join us in making and sharing some great memories around the world. If your Post or directorate are not yet in touch, please do reach out. We would love if you can help us go global all over again! Each of us contributing a little, together achieving a lot.