



NEWSLETTER

June 2026

Diversity
JOBS GROUP

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Welcome to the June 2026 edition

June highlights the importance of global action both in and out of the workplace.

In this issue, hear from Volkswagen Financial Services and their ongoing commitment to building an inclusive and supportive workplace, and how 2 Sisters Food Group celebrated Grocery Aid Day. We look at diversity on a worldwide scale, with both World Day Against Child Labour and UK Windrush Day being a focus. Finally, we spotlight the importance of Men's physical and mental health, and look at how this can be brought to the workplace.

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**VOLKSWAGEN
FINANCIAL SERVICES**
THE KEY TO MOBILITY

Volkswagen Financial Services - Driving Inclusion and Excellence

Volkswagen Financial Services (VWFS) is celebrating a significant milestone in its ongoing commitment to building an inclusive and supportive workplace. The organisation is proud to have retained its status as one of the "Great Places to Work," ranking in the top 50 for organisations with over 1,000 colleagues.

Additionally, it has maintained its position as a HigherIn Undergraduate Top 100 employer, a recognition that reflects its dedication to creating an environment where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

In addition to these prestigious endorsements, VWFS has successfully obtained its Disability Confident Level 1 status, further demonstrating its commitment to removing barriers and fostering an open culture.

The organisation has also begun its journey to becoming a menopause-friendly workplace, ensuring that employees are supported through every stage of their lives and careers. Through these initiatives, VWFS continues to demonstrate that fostering a culture of inclusion is not only a core value, but a vital part of its long-term strategy to ensure a diverse and vibrant workforce.

2 Sisters Food Group celebrate Grocery Aid Day

2 Sisters Food Group helps feed the nation every single day. From poultry to pizza, ready meals to soup, we make fantastic food and are passionate about great quality and value.

Throughout early May, we celebrate Grocery Aid Day, a charity that offers financial, practical, and emotional support to colleagues in the grocery industry. Every site ensures that colleagues are aware of Grocery Aid and the support available to them when they need it.

One unifying activity was the Great Grocery Aid Bake-Off competition. Colleagues from across the division sent in pictures of their bakes and sold their treats to fellow colleagues to raise money for Grocery Aid.



Accelerating Global Action to Protect Vulnerable Youth

World Day Against Child Labour - 12th June

Observed globally on 12 June, the World Day Against Child Labour provides a critical moment for organisations, businesses, and governing bodies across the UK to reinforce their commitment to human rights, ethical procurement, and social equity. This year's campaign, running under the global slogan "Red Card to Child Labour: Fair play for children, decent work for adults," comes at a decisive time following the recent Marrakech Global Framework for Action, which outlined urgent measures to translate historical commitments into concrete, measurable results.

For employers, the day serves as a vital reminder of the responsibility businesses hold in ensuring global operations remain free from exploitation. Despite significant international progress, millions of children worldwide remain engaged in child labour, often within hazardous environments that endanger their physical health, mental well-being, and access to foundational education.



Securing Ethical Integrity in Supply Chains

In 2026, forward-thinking businesses are increasingly focusing on the transparency and ethical integrity of their supply chains to combat exploitation at its root. Progressive organisations understand that corporate social responsibility extends far beyond local offices; it requires thorough auditing, robust compliance checks, and a collaborative approach with international suppliers to ensure fair working conditions across all tiers of production.

By actively implementing rigorous procurement policies, businesses can ensure that they do not inadvertently support practices that deprive children of their childhood, dignity, and potential.

Supporting Quality Education and Decent Work

The chosen focus this year is the advocacy for policies that provide a permanent escape from economic vulnerability, namely access to quality education for young people and decent, stable work for adults. Employers can champion these efforts by adopting fair wage structures, encouraging continuous professional development, and supporting community-focused initiatives that strengthen the economic resilience of families.

When businesses invest in sustainable, equitable employment frameworks, they play an active role in reducing the financial pressures that lead to child exploitation. As World Day Against Child Labour is marked in 2026, the overarching objective for the business community remains clear: shifting the corporate narrative from basic compliance to active advocacy, ensuring that global commercial success is built strictly upon the foundations of human rights and social justice.

Men's Health Week

15th - 21st June

Men's Health Week serves as an essential framework for employers across the UK to reinforce their commitment to equity, diversity, and staff well-being. The week provides a vital platform for organisations to actively engage with the specific health challenges faced by male employees, focusing on proactive healthcare, mental wellness, and sustainable lifestyle practices.

Early Detection and Health Screenings

A cornerstone of the initiative is encouraging men to take control of their physical wellness through routine medical assessments and early detection. Campaigns during this week advocate for an annual physical "MOT," prompting employees to check for critical health concerns such as heart disease, diabetes, and prostate or testicular cancer.

Forward-thinking organisations are utilising this awareness period to actively review how their workplace policies and employee benefits accommodate health maintenance. By giving staff the necessary flexibility to attend routine GP appointments and health screenings, employers remove significant barriers to preventative care, helping to build a more resilient workforce.

Breaking the Stigma Around Mental Well-being

Addressing mental health challenges remains a primary objective of the campaign, with a core focus on breaking down traditional workplace stigmas. Employers are increasingly establishing open, inclusive environments that cultivate psychological safety, ensuring men feel supported when navigating stress, anxiety or depression.

By facilitating open dialogue and championing internal support groups, organisations provide the essential frameworks that allow individuals to speak out safely. These internal safe spaces encourage employees to seek professional assistance early, ensuring that mental well-being is treated with the same priority as physical health.

Encouraging Manageable Lifestyle Changes

Promoting positive long-term health outcomes relies on the advocacy of small, manageable lifestyle adjustments. Employers can play an active role in this by encouraging healthier dietary choices, facilitating increased physical activity, and promoting a balanced approach to work and personal life.

As organisations mark Men's Health Week in 2026, the collective focus shifts from merely spreading awareness to implementing sustainable actions that support employees at every stage of their personal and professional journeys.



Celebrating Legacy, Fostering Equality, and Inspiring Future Generations

UK Windrush Day - 22nd June

Marked annually on 22 June, UK Windrush Day provides an essential opportunity for organisations and communities across the country to acknowledge, celebrate, and reflect upon the monumental impact of the Windrush Generation. This year marks the 78th anniversary of the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks in 1948—a historic milestone that fundamentally shaped the social, cultural, and economic landscape of modern Britain.

For forward-thinking employers, Windrush Day serves as a vital anchor point to reinforce commitments to equity, diversity, and genuine inclusion in the workplace. The occasion highlights the profound historical and ongoing contributions made by Caribbean migrants and their descendants, who stepped forward to support the UK during critical post-war labour shortages, helping to build foundational public institutions like the NHS and public transport networks.

Driving Greater Community Cohesion

In 2026, the national focus for Windrush Day initiatives places a powerful emphasis on bringing communities together across different generational, social, and ethnic backgrounds. Forward-thinking organisations are utilising this period to review their internal workplace structures, ensuring they foster environments where individuals from all heritages can thrive, connect, and collaborate.

By actively facilitating open dialogue, internal cultural educational events, and community-led storytelling, businesses can bridge generational divides and break down institutional barriers. These collaborative spaces allow younger professionals to engage directly with the lived experiences and rich heritage of elders, cultivating deep empathy and a stronger sense of shared identity across the workforce.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders

A core objective of this year's commemorations is to encourage and inspire the descendants of the Windrush Generation to pursue their professional aspirations and step into leadership roles.

Forward-thinking businesses are increasingly embedding these principles into their long-term equity strategies by establishing targeted career pathways, mentorship frameworks, and inclusive development programmes.

By actively investing in early careers and creating transparent avenues for progression, employers ensure that leadership pipelines represent the diverse society they serve. When organisations proactively support young talent from underrepresented backgrounds, they turn historical reflection into meaningful, sustainable action.

As Windrush Day is observed in 2026, it serves as a powerful reminder that building a equitable future requires a deep appreciation of the past. By honoring the resilience of the Windrush pioneers and championing the aspirations of their descendants, organisations can cultivate inclusive workplace cultures that enrich businesses and the wider society alike.

Last months new and renewing partners include:

The logo for cardfactory, featuring the word "cardfactory" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.The logo for luminate EDUCATION GROUP, with "luminate" in a large, black, lowercase, sans-serif font and "EDUCATION GROUP" in a smaller, black, uppercase, sans-serif font below it.The logo for The British Museum, with "The British Museum" in a black, serif font, where "The" is smaller and positioned to the left of "British Museum".The logo for BOOKER, with the word "BOOKER" in a bold, orange, uppercase, sans-serif font.

Notable Dates

- 4th - International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 12th - World Day Against Child Labour
- 14th - Race Unity Day
- 15th - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 15th - 21st - Refugee Week
- 15th - 21st - Men's Health Week
- 18th - Autistic Pride Day
- 20th - World Refugee Day
- 21st - Summer Solstice
- 21st - Father's Day
- 22nd - UK Windrush Day
- 22nd - 26th - School Diversity Week