



**2020 WINDRUSH DAY MESSAGE FROM
H. E. SETH GEORGE RAMOCAN, CD
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR JAMAICA**

The staff of the Jamaican High Commission joins me in extending warm greetings to our Jamaican family on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the docking of the HMS Empire Windrush at Tilbury. Today also marks two years since the official declaration of 22nd June as Windrush Day.

This year's celebration will be quite different from any other, as the United Kingdom, Jamaica and indeed the world, continue to grapple with the unique and unprecedented challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, we lost a number of our nationals during this period, including a number of community stalwarts and members of the Windrush generation, some of whom have left strong legacies for generations to come. I wish to use this opportunity to convey heartfelt sympathies to those who have lost loved ones, have been ill, stranded or have otherwise been affected by this deadly pandemic.

Despite the curtailment of activities due to the pandemic, it is important that we use the opportunity of the day to recognise and celebrate the rich legacy and valuable contribution of the Windrush generation and their descendants to the rebuilding of all facets of the British society. A key area of contribution by the Windrush generation was to the development of the National Health Service (NHS) which also celebrates its 72nd anniversary this year. It is therefore fitting that we recognise and thank in particular, our hardworking and competent doctors, nurses and other key workers who have been in the frontline during this pandemic and have remained committed, even risking their own lives, to ensure our overall health and safety. We remain grateful to them, and all the trailblazing Jamaican nurses and mid-wives who have helped to shape the NHS since its establishment.

I also wish to use this opportunity to thank all our community leaders, organisations and the many individuals who have reached out and provided well appreciated support to the elders in our community during this period. Your assistance has complemented the efforts made by the High Commission and indeed the Government of Jamaica to assist our nationals during this time of need. We recognise that there is much more work to be done to ensure that the rights, health and safety of the members of the Windrush generation and their descendants are promoted and protected and will continue to give priority attention to their concerns.

Finally, I encourage you during this difficult time, to emulate the many examples set by members of the Windrush generation to remain strong, resilient and positive as we work towards the country and world we want for our future generation.

May God Continue to Bless You and your Families during this challenging time.