



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA



THE PRIME MINISTER

I would like to send my warm wishes to all those attending the service at the Brixton Seventh-day Adventist Church service to mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush. I know that hearing the new Windrush Anthem, which you have commissioned to mark this important date, will be particularly poignant.

In this country, we owe a great debt of gratitude to the Windrush generation. When the UK faced a post-war labour shortage, it was the people from the Caribbean and the wider Commonwealth who saved our public services. I want to personally acknowledge and celebrate the Windrush generation's enormous contribution to the UK, not just in the vital work of rebuilding the country and public services following the Second World War, but also in enriching our shared social, economic, cultural and religious lives.

The Windrush name – once synonymous with this contribution – has become associated with the serious mistakes by successive governments. I am proud of the efforts made to rectify mistakes and to learn the lessons necessary to prevent such a situation from happening again. We know there is more to do. The Windrush generation rightly identify as British and have the right to be in this country. It is essential that we do better in ensuring that this generation and those who come after them are welcomed, celebrated and recognised now and in the future.

It is important that we reclaim the name of Windrush in joy and celebration for the substantial achievements of the generation, and thank you again for allowing me a small part to play in your commemoration service today.

24 June 2023