

**CAHN**  
Caribbean & African Health Network



# Africa Day 2026

## **Africa Forward:**

Diaspora Partnerships for Trade, Health Prosperity  
and Shared Growth

**28<sup>th</sup> May | 10am-3pm | Greater Manchester**

**Maxwell Building, University of Salford, M5 4WT**

An event delivered by the Caribbean & African Health Network  
Supported by University of Salford



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**Salford**  
MANCHESTER



## Message from the Chair of CAHN

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Caribbean & African Health Network, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Africa Day 2026.

This year's theme 'Africa Forward: Diaspora Partnerships for Trade, Health, Prosperity and Shared Growth' speaks to a truth we have always held at CAHN. Health and prosperity are not separate pursuits. They rise and fall together. When our people are well, our businesses are stronger, our ideas are bolder, and our communities thrive.

We gather today in a period of turbulence and transition. The economic environment is uncertain, and that uncertainty is not shared equally. Economic challenges fall hardest on the Black workforce and on Black-owned enterprises, leaving us more exposed and with less to fall back on. Yet within this moment lies a profound opportunity, because the same resilience that has carried our communities through harder times is the resilience that will carry us forward now.

At the heart of Africa Forward is a simple conviction. Wellbeing is not a luxury, it is the foundation on which everything else is built. Healthy people do their best work. They have the energy to create, the confidence to innovate and the strength to build something lasting. Across Africa and the diaspora, our entrepreneurs are building ventures, creating jobs and opening new corridors of trade, and that progress begins with looking after ourselves and one another.

Ending the inequalities that hold us back will not happen by accident. It happens by design, through the deliberate, sustained and unapologetic work of people who refuse to settle. Africa Day is part of that design. It is where enterprise, partnership and wellbeing meet, and where the next generation of diaspora leaders find their footing.

Today you will hear from inspiring leaders and changemakers. Across our keynote, our panels on building UK-Africa economic corridors and on diaspora health partnerships, our spotlight on a rising star of the diaspora and our cultural performances, you will see this year's theme come to life. Many of you are showcasing your own businesses, while others are taking your first steps into enterprise, health and technology. I hope what you hear moves you to act, to collaborate and to lead.

Thank you to the speakers, dignitaries, partners, performers, stallholders, attendees, volunteers, and staff who made this day possible. Enjoy Africa Day 2026.

**Professor Faye Ruddock DL**  
Chair, Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN)



## Message from the Chief Executive of CAHN

On behalf of CAHN, I am delighted to welcome you to the University of Salford for Africa Day 2026.

Africa Day has always been a moment for collective purpose, and this year's theme, Africa Forward: Diaspora Partnerships for Trade, Health, Prosperity and Shared Growth, reflects the direction in which CAHN continues to lead. Our work across health equity, workforce development, enterprise support and community mobilisation is grounded in the understanding that health and economic strength are closely connected and must be advanced together.

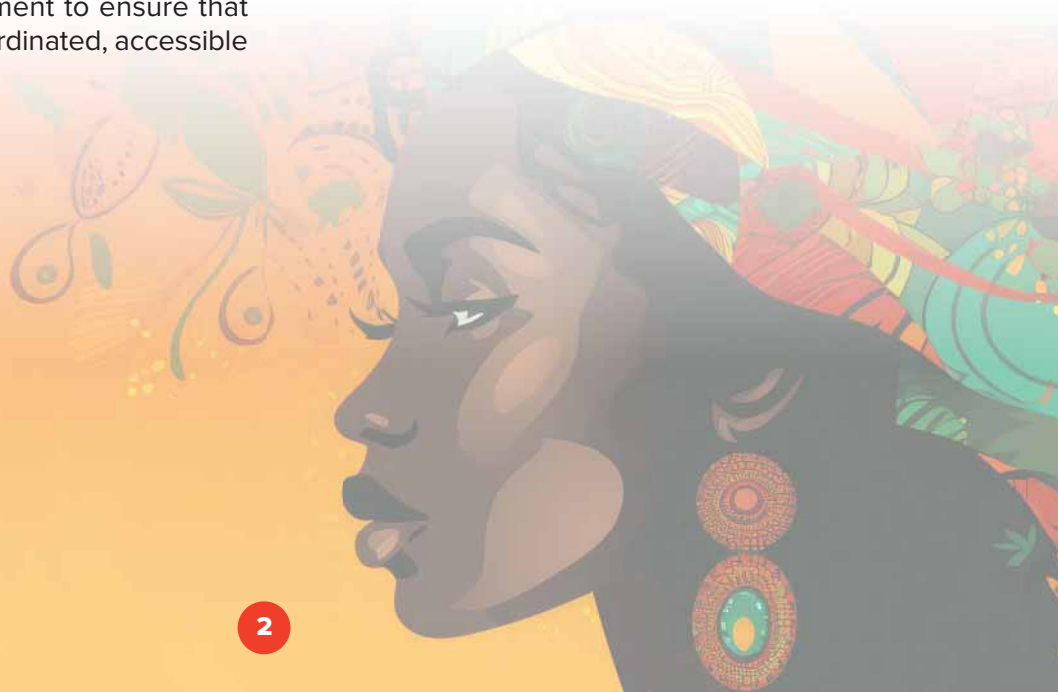
CAHN is committed to building an ecosystem that enables Black communities and Black-owned enterprises to grow with confidence. Through our programmes, partnerships and advocacy, we are strengthening access to information, training, leadership development and practical support. Africa Day forms part of this wider effort because it brings together entrepreneurs, professionals, institutions and investors who each play a role in shaping the future of our community.

Partnerships remain central to this work. We collaborate with organisations across health, education, business and investment to ensure that support for our community is coordinated, accessible and effective.

Our mission to end health inequalities remains at the centre of CAHN's work, and we understand that economic empowerment strengthens the foundations for better health outcomes. Whether you are here to showcase your business, to explore new opportunities or to take your first step into enterprise, today is designed to support your development and to strengthen the collective progress of our community.

My thanks go to our speakers, partners, sponsors, performers, volunteers, stallholders, staff and to everyone who has contributed to making today possible.

**Charles Kwaku-Odoi DL**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN)**



The Caribbean & African Health Network (CAHN) is a national Black-led organisation set up to address health inequalities in 2017.

**Our mission** is to end health inequalities and wider disparities for Caribbean and African people in a generation.

**Our vision** is for the strategic and operational actions of service providers across health and cross sector agencies and commissioners, lead to racial and social justice for Black people.

## How to Get Involved

We believe that meaningful change happens when communities, professionals, and organisations unite around a shared vision.

### 1 Partnership Opportunities

Partner with us to create a lasting impact across the healthcare sector. From corporate sponsorship to collaborative programmes, we offer tailored partnership opportunities that align with your organisation's values and our vision. Our partnerships extend beyond funding to include knowledge sharing, workforce development, and community engagement initiatives. **Contact:** [partnerships@cahn.org.uk](mailto:partnerships@cahn.org.uk)

### 2 Investment Through Donation

Every contribution directly supports our year-round programmes and services, including community health screenings, Health Hour, free counselling, and research.

### 3 Volunteer Your Expertise

We're continue building a diverse network of skilled volunteers who share our commitment to health equity:

**Healthcare Professionals:** Midwives, nurses, doctors, and allied health professionals to support our community services and health literacy programmes.

**Community Champions:** Passionate individuals who understand our communities and can help extend our reach and impact.



Scan here to donate

To contribute your skills: [volunteering@cahn.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@cahn.org.uk)

[www.cahn.org.uk](http://www.cahn.org.uk)



## EVENT SPEAKERS & PERFORMERS



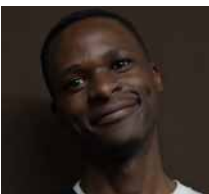
### **Asher Craig**

CEO of the Pathway Fund and former Deputy Mayor of Bristol, Asher Craig is a nationally recognised leader driving racial equity, inclusive finance, and systemic change for Black and Global Majority communities through advocacy, leadership, and community-centred investment.



### **Lucia Okafor**

Head of Global Operations at Flutterwave, is a payments leader with nearly two decades modernising financial operations across Africa and emerging markets. She helped launch the eNaira and is passionate about financial inclusion.



### **Carlos Tamale**

Founder and CEO of Originally.Black, a technology-driven platform supporting Black-owned businesses through innovation, storytelling, and digital engagement. Carlos is passionate about increasing visibility, economic empowerment, and opportunities for underserved communities and entrepreneurs.



### **Councillor Shaukat Ali**

Lord Mayor Elect bringing a civic address to mark Africa Day 2026. Councillor Ali is committed to celebrating diversity, strengthening communities, and recognising the important contributions African and Caribbean communities continue to make across Greater Manchester.



### **Dr Folake Yusuff**

GP Clinical Lead, entrepreneur, and business strategist supporting women to build financial resilience, leadership confidence, and long-term career growth. She empowers professionals to create sustainable wealth, influence, and opportunities beyond traditional employment.



### **Dr Samuel Ubanatu**

Doctor of Business Administration specialising in AI and Data Ethics Leadership, and Data Engineer at NHS Business Services Authority. His work focuses on responsible AI, healthcare data, and equitable technology innovation across the UK and Africa.



### **Kayode Bamgbose (Kaybams)**

Kaybams is a versatile performing artist, traditional drummer, and percussionist known for blending African rhythms with Afrobeat, jazz, and contemporary sounds. His energetic performances celebrate culture, storytelling, and musical heritage.

## EVENT SPEAKERS & PERFORMERS



**Bernard Idowu**

From the King's Awards for Enterprise Office, Bernard Idowu champions accessible funding and opportunities for impact-driven organisations and entrepreneurs, supporting innovation, growth, and stronger pathways for businesses and community organisations creating positive social change.



**Moyo Ogunmiloro**

Award-winning entrepreneur, digital product leader, and founder of Meliza's, creator of the UK's first plantain pasta. Moyo combines innovation, technology, and culture to build sustainable products and purpose-led solutions celebrating African heritage.



**NyaC**

Musician and live performer bringing energy and celebration to the Africa Day cultural programme. Through music and performance, NyaC celebrates creativity, identity, and the richness of African culture and artistic expression.



**Oluwasola Adesulu**

Poet and creative storyteller presenting an original reflection on diaspora, advocacy, health equity, and shared growth. Through spoken word and performance, Oluwasola explores identity, resilience, and collective progress.



**Segun Lafup**

Award-winning Nigerian-born comedian, MC, actor, and performer based in Manchester. Lafup is known for his dynamic stage presence, theatre productions, and television comedy work across the UK and Africa.



**Royal Oluwafemi**

Royal is a passionate young singer, speaker, youth councillor, and community advocate dedicated to empowering young people through leadership, service, and creativity.



**Wale Oyewo**

CEO and Co-Founder of Tetrad Incorporation Limited, an FCA-registered fintech company simplifying international payments. With a background in banking, cybersecurity, and financial services, Wale is passionate about building trusted financial infrastructure for diaspora communities.

# CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY OF ENTERPRISE

These are the businesses, organisations and leaders showcasing their work at their work at Africa Day 2026 hosted by CAHN.

We thank each of them for sharing their talent, their vision with us today.



To connect with any of these businesses, reach us at [events@cahn.org.uk](mailto:events@cahn.org.uk)

## With Thanks to the University of Salford

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the University of Salford for their generosity, kindness and support in helping bring Africa Day 2026 to life. It is always a pleasure to work alongside such a valued partner, and we are grateful for the many ways we have collaborated over the years.



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# Africa Day 2026

## Programme of the Day

Time	Activity	Lead / Team
10:00	Doors Open: Registration, Networking & Exhibition Stalls	Events Team
10:40	Cultural Welcome: African Language Greetings	<b>Erin Ohemeng</b>
	Host Welcome & Event Overview	<b>Segun Lafup</b> Event Host & Comedian
	Welcome Address	<b>Prof Faye Ruddock DL</b> Founding Chair, CAHN
11:00	<b>Address by the Lord Mayor</b>	<b>Councillor Shaukat Ali</b> Lord Mayor Elect
	Keynote Address	<b>Asher Craig</b> , CEO, Pathway Fund
	Creative Poem: A Reflection on Diaspora, Advocacy, Health Equity & Shared Growth	<b>Oluwasola Adesulu</b>
	Keynote Speech	<b>Lucia Okafor</b> Head, Global Operations, Flutterwave
	Spoken Word	Royal
	<b>Panel 1: Trade &amp; Investment</b> <b>Building UK-Africa Economic Corridors</b>	<b>Moyo Ogunmiloro</b> <b>Wale Oyewo</b> <b>Oluwasola Adesulu</b>
12:10	<b>Break &amp; Networking</b>	
13:00	Performance	<b>Kayode Bamgbose</b> Traditional Drummer
	<b>Panel 2: Africa Forward</b> <b>Diaspora Health Partnerships, Innovation and Equity</b>	<b>Dr. Adefolake Yusuff</b> <b>Dr Samuel Ubanatu</b> <b>Peace Temitope</b>
	Video Talk	<b>Bernard Idowu</b> The King's Awards for Enterprise Office
	Performance: Music	<b>NyaC</b>
	Community Spotlight: Rising Star of the Diaspora	<b>Carlos Tamale</b> , CEO, Originally Black
14:30	Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks	<b>Charles Kwaku-Odoi</b> Chief Executive, CAHN

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Celebrate Windrush Day: Register Now for a Day of Culture and Fun

This vibrant event celebrates the incredible contributions of the Windrush generation and their legacy.

Event Highlights: Live DJ & Music | Delicious Caribbean food stalls | Face painting & bouncy castle for the kids | Football match | Live cultural performances | Arts stalls & more!

**Event details: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June | 12:00pm – 6:00pm | Location: Alexandra Park, M16 7JL**  
**Contact: [windrushday@cahn.org.uk](mailto:windrushday@cahn.org.uk) / Register now and secure your free place.**



**CAHN** Caribbean & African Health Network

# Windrush Day 2026

*"We Are Here Because the Windrush Generation Was There"*

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
12:00pm - 6:00pm  
Alexandra Park, Manchester (M16 7JL)

**Free Entry**

Caribbean Food | Music | Dance | Arts | Dominoes  
Caribbean Living Room | Football | Bouncy Castle

In partnership with:

Supported by:

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Celebrate Excellence in Healthcare: Purchase Tickets Today!

Join us on Saturday, 4th July 2024, as we spotlight the brilliance of Black professionals in health and care. This black-tie evening will feature a three-course meal, live entertainment, and a live band. It's more than just an awards ceremony – it's an opportunity to connect with leaders in healthcare, politics, and social justice.

**Date: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 | 6:00pm to Midnight | Location: Central London**  
**Contact: [blackhealthcareawards@cahn.org.uk](mailto:blackhealthcareawards@cahn.org.uk) / Limited tickets available here.**



# Black Healthcare Awards 2026

4 July | Central London

**Tickets Now Available**

This distinguished awards ceremony attracts senior leaders and influential figures across the UK healthcare system.

An exceptional opportunity to celebrate achievements with peers and family.

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# SURVEY

## DIGITAL INCLUSION IN EQUITABLE GENOMICS RESEARCH

Black communities have long been missing from genetic research, and that shapes the care we get. 15 minutes of your time helps put us back in the picture.



Scan to Register  
for Live Webinars

## HEALTH HOUR.

*Culturally relevant health, every Saturday*



Scan Watch  
Previous Sessions





Thank you for being part of Africa Day 2026.

The Caribbean & African Health Network extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this day possible. Our thanks go to our speakers, stallholders, performers, partners, volunteers and staff for their time, talent and support.

We also acknowledge the contributions and collective power of the African diaspora, whose enterprise, creativity and resilience carry us all forward.

We Move Africa Forward.