

## **Industry joins forces - WFA launches global industry census in partnership with Campaign, Kantar and agencies associations EACA and VoxComm**

*National advertiser and agency associations in 27 markets will promote research and encourage local marketers to participate.*

*Census is supported by major global companies including Diageo, GSK, Havas, Mars, Mondelez and Reckitt.*

**June 3:** The World Federation of Advertisers (WFA) is launching the world's first-ever global census of the marketing and advertising industry, designed to provide hard data on the people who are working in the profession.

The survey will assess where the global advertising and marketing industry is in relation to diversity, equity and inclusion by investigating workforce composition across the industry as well as people's perception of diversity and inclusion in the workplace, including their sense of belonging and their perception of progress.

Working alongside Campaign, Kantar, EACA and the new global agencies association VoxComm, and national advertiser associations as well as their agency counterparts, the goal is to generate the largest and most representative sample possible.

WFA and its [Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce](#) believe that the strains and pressures of the pandemic have made it harder for many organisations to prioritise their diversity and inclusion efforts, while research has found that many women, in particular, have considered leaving the profession.

The initiative builds on work already carried out in the UK as part of the [All In Initiative](#)- as well as the many efforts led in the US by ANA and 4As and in other markets- with the aim of establishing a tangible baseline for the global industry, which will help inform an action plan for improvement led by WFA's taskforce.

National advertiser associations and their agency association counterparts have confirmed participation in the census across a wide variety of countries and territories. The participating markets in this census are Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Greece, the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates), Hong Kong (SAR), China, India, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and USA.

While national associations and their agency counterparts will be driving the samples at local level with the support of Haymarket's Campaign magazine in relevant markets, corporate members of WFA and agencies involved in the [WFA Diversity and Inclusion Task Force](#) will be driving the initiative top-down via their own employees, clients, partners and marketing supply chains. Supporting organisations include Brand Advance, Diageo, Ferrero, Grupo Bimbo, GSK, Havas, Mars, Mondelez, m/SIX and Reckitt.

The questionnaire will go live between June 21 and July 2. The results will be compiled and analysed by Kantar and the key findings will be published by Campaign's global network of editions later in the year and presented at leading industry events in October 2021. The results will also be used as the basis for an action plan devised and led by WFA's Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. The WFA intends to team up with Kantar and Campaign again in 18 months' time to measure progress.

**Stephan Loerke, WFA CEO** said: *"This is a historic moment for our industry. For all the talk of 'we are in this together', the pandemic has shown this to be simply untrue. Inequalities have been exacerbated by recent hardships. Anecdotal evidence suggests the industry is going backwards on diversity and inclusion. It is imperative we get a first-ever industry baseline so that we can draw a line in the sand and move forward together in improving the state of diversity, equity and inclusion in our industry."*

**Tamara Daltroff, Director General, EACA and President, VoxComm**, said: *“Agencies and agency associations already have their own census in place to monitor and drive change but complementing this existing research will provide us with a wider, cross-cultural view on diversity, equity and inclusion- enabling us to continue bridging the gaps in our industry. We are aiming to drive improvement together, for the benefit of our industry now and in the future. I want to express my special thanks to every participant; getting standardised data across the globe will equip us with a global industry baseline for the first time.”*

**Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director of UN Women and Chair of the Unstereotype Alliance** said: *“Progress in diversity and inclusion across the advertising industry has been inching forward where it should be racing ahead. The recent State of the Industry report launched by the Unstereotype Alliance shows that mechanisms to measure and hold organizations to account are critical to the improvement that is so urgently required. This census is an important step to uncover the extent to which marginalized and under-represented groups are under-resourced, and to help identify a clear path for progress.”*

**Tamara Rogers, Global Chief Marketing Officer at GSK** said: *“This is such an important time in our DEI journey. Brands around the world aspire to appeal and engage with the most diverse audiences possible, and as marketers we must ensure our own houses are in order as well. To have a first ever global industry baseline to guide a compelling action plan is crucial. In marketing we speak about behaving with credibility and authenticity, this is an example of the industry putting those principles into action.”*

**Cristina Diezhandino, Chief Marketing Officer at Diageo** said: *“The marketing industry is only as strong and successful as the talent within it. At Diageo, we are building diverse creative teams that work to ensure our marketing reflects the consumers that we serve. The WFA’s global industry census is so important because it will allow us to collaboratively hold a mirror up to our industry, to identify where the gaps in real progress remain and where action is still needed.”*

**Fabrice Beaulieu, EVP Group Marketing Excellence & EVP Category Development Organisation Hygiene, Reckitt**, said: *“Making headway on diversity and inclusion means understanding where we stand as an industry today. So getting these first-ever global figures across such a diverse set of markets represents a critical first step. Reckitt is delighted to be a pioneer on this important journey to making our industry more diverse, equitable and inclusive.”*

**Yannick Bolloré, CEO HAVAS** said: *“We are thrilled to be supporting the WFA and VoxComm in their efforts to take a worldwide picture of diversity and inclusion in marketing for the very first time. Measuring and analysing are key steps to understanding the challenges we face as an industry, and also, most importantly, to helping us overcome them to become more meaningful to the people we work with.”*

**Christopher Kenna, CEO and Founder of Brand Advance** said *“The WFA and its members are showing how all businesses across the industry need to move in a meaningful way from Alliance to Advocacy. This means not just saying you believe in diversity but ensuring meaningful progress is made internally and across your media and advertising. This census gives the whole industry a ‘Ground Zero’ - allowing us to assess where we are, what we need to do. Then we can Do It! Because Black Lives STILL Matter, LGBTQ+ Media should be on all Media Plans - disABILITY should be authentically represented in your creative, alongside many other aspects of ensuring diversity is an advocacy in your brand or agency - and that the resources required to do all this are easily accessible.”*

**Jess MacDermot, Global Portfolio Director at Campaign** said: *“Campaign is delighted to be partnering with the WFA on this global diversity and inclusivity survey, which builds on the initiatives we and countless others have already undertaken to highlight both the progress being made by the industry, and the significant challenges that remain and which must be tackled. We look forward to lending our ongoing editorial and commercial support to this project, within all our global editions.”*

**About WFA**

The World Federation of Advertisers (WFA) makes marketing better by championing more effective and sustainable marketing communications. It is the voice of marketers worldwide, representing 90% of global marketing communications spend – roughly US\$900 billion per annum.

WFA connects the world's biggest brand owners and national advertiser associations in more than 60 markets, bringing together tens of thousands of brands at local level. Together, they create a global network which offers a unique source of leadership, expertise and inspiration. More information at [www.wfanet.org](http://www.wfanet.org)

### **About EACA**

Established in 1959, the Brussels-based European Association of Communications Agencies (EACA) reunites more than 2,500 communications agencies and agency associations from nearly 30 European countries. EACA's purpose is to engage with EU policymakers, the industry and stakeholders in order to provide its members in with the most favourable business and legal framework they need to thrive. Through initiatives like inspire!, edcom, and the IMC & Effie Awards Europe, EACA is continuously working on the educational, qualitative, and sustainable aspects of advertising in Europe. For more information, visit [www.eaca.eu](http://www.eaca.eu).

### **About VoxComm**

Established in 2020, VoxComm is the new global voice for agencies, championing the value that agencies bring to their clients as turbo boosters for growth. With 36 national trade associations from around the globe, VoxComm stand for the power of commercial creativity in all its forms – across strategy, ideas, content and media – as a proven lever for growth that businesses neglect at their peril. For more information, visit [www.voxcomm.org](http://www.voxcomm.org).