



SUPPLY CHAIN INSIGHTS

CATARINA RIBEIRO: “BE PROUD AND LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE!”

June is Pride Month when the LGBTQ+ community comes together to celebrate the freedom to be themselves – or protest the lack of that freedom. At DHL Supply Chain we believe that a place where everyone belongs is also a place where everyone can be their authentic self – just like Catarina Ribeiro. Here’s her story.

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Catarina is one of about 600,000 Deutsche Post DHL Group employees around the globe. She told us how she has found her place within the Group.

The problem solver who’s finally comfortable

Catarina embraces DHL’s inclusiveness, having found a fulfilling career at a DHL Supply Chain warehouse, where acceptance of her sexual orientation is a reflection of the work culture and a source of pride.

Born and raised in Portugal, Catarina now lives in the UK, where she is a Systems Super User at the East Midlands Gateway warehouse.

This warehouse handles inbound and outbound shipments as well as returns for supermarkets such as Aldi and Tesco. As a Super User, Catarina walks around the site with a laptop connected to the warehouse management system and helps colleagues by solving problems.

“If someone scans the wrong pallet, enters the wrong volume for a shipment or if the system produces an error, I join my colleagues to sort it out,” she says. “My goal is to keep operations running smoothly and escalate the most serious problems to IT.”

With her forthcoming wedding to her female partner, she says: “I have never felt that anyone at DHL has treated me differently due to my sexual orientation”. Referring to her work environment, she adds: “I’ve felt comfortable since the first day.”

“I belong here”

The Group’s approach to diversity makes her feel at home.

“It’s so nice to see that people are happy for me when I talk about having proposed to my fiancée,” she says. “DHL is the first place where I’m not afraid of any reactions, and that makes me feel comfortable. Our company stands out because of our exceptional efforts towards diversity and inclusion. I belong here.”

Catarina finds that inclusiveness makes work more efficient. “It makes you come in to work without the fear of being judged. When you’re happy, you do your job better.”

Having been raised in more conservative surroundings, Catarina says that such upbringings can make a member of the LGBTQ+ community shy about their private life. “The journey isn’t easy, but you should make decisions that are right for yourself. Be proud, live your own life and do what makes you happy.”

For this year’s Pride in the UK, DHL colleagues are attending more events than ever and have a DHL ‘Delivered with Pride’ branded truck which we will have within the parade at some locations. Look out for us – and please do say hello if you see us there!

Find out more about why DHL Supply Chain is a company where, whoever you are, you can belong.

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