

ECDC'S 15TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE



**THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN
REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS:
A TIME FOR NEW THINKING**

**May 4-6, 2009
Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston
Arlington, VA**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WELCOME

I am delighted and honored to welcome you to ECDC's 15th National Conference on African Refugees and Immigrants. This year's conference theme is *A Time for New Thinking: The Future of African Refugees and Immigrants*. The theme represents a past year of progress and concern about African newcomers to the U.S. and overseas. Only 8,935 African refugees were resettled in FY 2008 due primarily to DNA testing. Today, family reunion for thousands of African refugees is in jeopardy. With the U.S. economy in recession, employment for newcomers to the country will take on new challenges to help them become and remain self-sufficient. Ongoing and new conflicts will continue to pose threats to African refugees on the continent...from the DRC to Somalia, Sudan to Zimbabwe. Refugees in Africa as well as newcomers here remain vulnerable, and new ways of thinking about their future and how best to assist them are needed. It is my hope that this conference will be an opportunity to synthesize and examine these issues in a productive and positive way. To program participants, conference planners and generous co-sponsors, I extend a sincere thank you.

Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.
President

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

ECDC's conference is made possible through partial funding support from the Office of Refugee Resettlement and the sponsors listed below for which we are most grateful.

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Refugee and Immigrant Relief Center

Monday, May 4, 2009

7:30 a.m.	Registration and Coffee	Foyer
8:30—8:45 a.m.	Welcome Tsehaye Teferra, <i>President, ECDC</i> Kenneth Tota, <i>Deputy Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement</i>	Ballroom
8:45—9:30 a.m.	Keynote Speaker	Ballroom
Introduced By:	Ernest M. Skinner, <i>ECDC Board Member and Former Vice-President and Community Development Director, Citibank, F.S.B. (Mid-Atlantic Region)</i>	
Speaker:	Ambassador Curtis Anthony Ward, J.D., L.L.M., <i>Attorney at Law and International Consultant</i>	
9:30—11:00 a.m.	African Refugee Policy and Updates	Ballroom
Moderator:	Kathleen Newland, <i>Director, Migration Policy Institute</i>	
Presenters:	Thomas Albrecht, <i>Deputy Regional Representative, UNHCR</i> Terry Rusch, <i>Director of Refugee Admissions, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration</i> Barbara L. Strack, <i>Chief, Refugee Affairs Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services</i> David Siegel, <i>Acting Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement</i>	
11:00—11:15 a.m.	Break	Foyer
11:15—12:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	
	A. Arizona Lost Boys Center's Culturally Responsive Behavioral Health Program for Sudanese Refugees	Fairfax
Presenters:	Aydin Bal, <i>Behavioral Health Director, Arizona Lost Boys Center</i> Kuol Awan, <i>Behavioral Health Program Outreach Manager, Arizona Lost Boys Center</i>	
	B. Community Integration: Intentional Programming	Glebe
Presenters:	Peggy Gilbert, <i>Senior Program Advisor, ISED Solutions</i> Jan Losby, <i>Director of Research, ISED Solutions</i>	
	C. Volunteers: Connecting Refugees with their New Communities	Wilson
Presenters:	Tabassum Siraj, <i>Program Officer, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)</i> Khyati Desai, <i>Civic Engagement Manager, Points of Light Foundation</i>	
1:00—2:15 p.m.	Luncheon Speaker Nicole C. Lee, <i>Executive Director, TransAfrica Forum</i>	
2:30—4:00 p.m.	A Time for New Thinking about Refugee Resettlement	Ballroom
Moderator:	Annie Wilson, <i>Executive Vice-President, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services</i>	
Presenters:	Lavinia Limón, <i>President, USCRI</i> Jennifer Gueddiche, <i>Director, ECDC African Community Center, Denver</i> Peggy Gilbert, <i>Senior Program Advisor, ISED Solutions</i> Gus Avenido, <i>Refugee State Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Human Services</i>	
4:00—4:15 p.m.	Break	Foyer

Monday, May 4, 2009 (continued)

4:15—5:45 p.m. Contributions of the Civil Rights Movement to African Newcomers Ballroom

Moderator: Ernest M. Skinner, *ECDC Board Member and Former Vice-President and Community Development Director, Citibank, F.S.B. (Mid-Atlantic Region)*

Presenters: Courtland Cox, *Director of Local, Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Development, Washington, D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission*
William Reed, *Media Entrepreneur*

6:00—7:00 p.m. Capitol Hill Congressional Visit Meeting Ballroom

Presenters: Helly Lee, *Advocacy Initiative Director, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center*
Roman Corpuz, *Portfolio Officer, ECDC Enterprise Development Group*

7:00—8:30 p.m. Film: Home Across Lands Ballroom

Presenters: William Shuey, *Executive Director, International Institute of Rhode Island (IIRI)*
Mary Copp, *Producer, Home Across Lands*
Baha Sadr, *Director of Refugee Resettlement Services, IIRI*
John Lavall, *Director, Home Across Lands*

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

7:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee Foyer

8:00—8:30 a.m. Welcome Ballroom

8:30—10:00 a.m. From Refugee Status Determination to Resettlement Ballroom

Moderator: Anastasia Brown, *Director, Office of Refugee Programs, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Presenters: Larry Yungk, *Resettlement Director, UNHCR*
Kelly Gauger, *Overseas Processing Section Chief, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration*
Matthew Edmundson, *Operations Officer, Mapendo International*

10:00—10:15 a.m. Break

10:15—11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. African Professionals Challenge the Resettlement System Fairfax

Moderator: Tadesse R. Fessehayee, *Community Liaison Supervisor, Florida Dept. of Children and Families*
Presenters: Linda Rabben, *Consultant, RefugeeWorks*
Serge Yondou, *RefugeeWorks*

B. Cultural Perspectives on Domestic Violence in the African Community Glebe

Presenters: Heidi Boas, *Attorney, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services*
Sheri Laigle, *Therapist II, Abused Persons Program*

C. Cultural Orientation for New Groups Wilson

Presenter: Sanja Bebic, *Director, COR, Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)*
Colleen Mahar-Piersma, *Refugee Training Specialist, CAL*
Sarah Krause, *Cultural Orientation Coordinator, Church World Service*

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 (continued)

11:45—12:00 p.m.	Break	Foyer
12:00—1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	
	A. American Red Cross Services	Fairfax
Presenters:	Christa Lyons, <i>Volunteer Caseworker and Board Member, Alexandria Red Cross</i> Martha Naismith, <i>Volunteer Caseworker and Board Member, Alexandria Red Cross</i>	
	B. Cultural Orientation as a Step Toward Integration	Glebe
Presenters:	Myrna Ann Adkins, <i>President and CEO, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning</i> Krassin Gueorguiev, <i>Lead Trainer, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning</i> Leslie Olson, <i>Refugee Housing T.A. Specialist, Mercy Housing</i> Erin Efaw, <i>Family Asset Building Programs, Manager, ECDC African Community Center, Denver</i>	
	C. Refugee Health Initiatives	Wilson
Moderator:	Jeanne Tshibungu, <i>Team Leader, RAPP, ECDC African Community Center — Arlington</i>	
Presenters:	Maliha Imami, <i>Alliance for Multicultural Community Services</i> Walter Lam, <i>President and CEO, Alliance for African Assistance</i>	
1:30—2:30 p.m.	Luncheon Speaker: Activism and Advocacy for African Refugees and Immigrants	Ballroom
Presenter:	Hillary O. Shelton, <i>Director, NAACP Washington Bureau</i>	
2:30—5:00 p.m.	Capitol Hill Congressional Visits <i>Bus will arrive at 2:00p.m. to begin loading</i>	Washington, DC
6:30—11:00 p.m.	ECDC's Banquet Celebrating 26 Years of Service to the Community <i>Ticket pick-up for conference participants will be from 2-5p.m. on Tuesday at the registration area</i>	Ballroom

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

7:30 a.m.	Registration and Coffee	Foyer
8:30—10:00 a.m.	Examining the Sources of Refugee Migrations and their Relation to Conflict Resolution	Ballroom
Moderator:	Anam Gnaho, <i>Program Specialist, ECDC Refugee Resettlement Program, Arlington</i>	
Presenters:	Patricia B. Minikon, <i>Attorney at Law, Law Offices of Patricia Minikon</i> I. William Zartman, <i>Professor Emeritus, Johns Hopkins University</i>	
10:00—10:15 a.m.	Break	Foyer

Wednesday, May 6, 2009 (continued)

10:15—11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. The New American Dreams of the Somali Bantu People

Fairfax

Moderator:
Presenters:

Tadesse R. Fessehaye, *Community Liaison Supervisor, Florida Department of Children and Families*
Abdi A. Abdi, *Executive Director, Somali Bantu Association of Tucson, Arizona, Inc.*
Omar Osman, *Executive Director, Somali Bantu Community of Greater Houston*
Abubakar Mohamed, *Secretary and Project Co-Director, Somali Bantu Community Association of Idaho*
Muktar Haji, *Director, Somali Bantu Community of St. Louis*

B. Strengthening Refugee Families and Communities to Promote Children's Well-Being

Glebe

Presenters:

Laura Gardner, *Education Technical Assistance Specialist, Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS)*
Katrina Hobbs-Hawkins, *Child Welfare Specialist, BRYCS*

C. African Refugees and Immigrants in Public Schools

Wilson

Presenters:

Fessahaye Mebrahtu, *Executive Director, Pan African Community Association*
Lawrence Bussey, *Consultant, Fairfax County, Virginia Public Schools*

11:45—12:00 p.m. Break

Foyer

12:00—1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. On the Crest of an Epidemic Wave: HIV/AIDS Prevention Education and Testing for African Newcomers

Fairfax

Moderator:
Presenters:

Frances Connell, *ACC Director, ECDC African Community Center, Arlington*
Addisalem Tadesse, *HIV/AIDS Outreach Specialist, ECDC, Arlington*
Abrha Teka, *HIV/AIDS Counselor and Tester, ECDC, Washington, D.C.*
Ashebir Gebru, *Health Outreach Specialist, ECDC, Arlington*
Jeanne Tshibungu, *Team Leader, RAPP, ECDC, Arlington*
Shimeles Bekele, *Community Health Educator, ECDC, Arlington*
Mahad Egal, *RAPP Outreach Specialist and HIV/AIDS Counselor and Tester, ECDC, Washington, D.C.*

B. Examining the Burundian Refugee Resettlement Experience and the Long-Term Effects of Protracted Refugee Situations

Glebe

Presenter:

Jessica Hanson, *Program Officer, USCRI*

C. Microenterprise and Asset Development Strategies in a Time of Economic Challenge

Wilson

Moderator:
Presenters:

Kevin Kelly, *Managing Director, ECDC Enterprise Development Group*
Elizabeth Myrick, *Independent Consultant and Director, The Community Giving Resource*

1:30—2:15 p.m.

Luncheon Speaker

Ballroom

Presenter:

Cyrena C. Khoury, *Policy Advisor, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*

2:15—2:30 p.m.

Summation and Adjournment

Ballroom

Tsehaye Teferra, *President, ECDC*

NOTES

Mission and Purpose

Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) was established in 1983 as a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to resettle refugees, promote cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs in the immigrant and refugee community in the United States; and to conduct humanitarian and socio-economic development programs in the Horn of Africa.

ECDC was organized to respond initially to the needs of a growing Ethiopian community in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and across the country. For 26 years, ECDC has been developing and providing programs and services that respond to the needs of clients from diverse cultural backgrounds while focusing on the African newcomer community. In Arlington, Virginia, Denver, Colorado, and Las Vegas, Nevada, ECDC branch offices offer educational, skills building and social service programs that help newcomers become self-sufficient, contributing members of their new homeland.

Since 1990, ECDC has been resettling refugees through its network of affiliated agencies located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina, Nevada, and Texas. Regionally and nationally, ECDC engages in efforts to increase public awareness about domestic and international issues affecting the lives of African refugees and immigrants; provides technical assistance to community-based organizations; and has taken a leadership role in creating a network among African community organizations around the country.

Internationally, ECDC focuses on cultural and educational development activities in Ethiopia and maintains an office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Support for ECDC is derived from individual contributions, in-kind donations, corporations, foundations, faith-based organizations, and contracts/grants from federal, state and local government agencies.

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