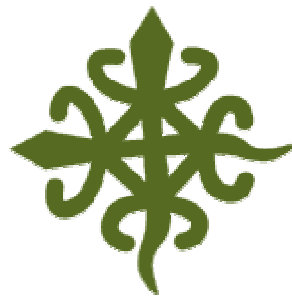


CONFERENCE PROGRAM

E Pluribus Unum?

[Out of Many, One]

AFRICANS IN AMERICA



ECDC/ARN
ELEVENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 13-15, 2005
MARRIOTT CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

WELCOME

In choosing the theme for our 11th national conference, we were mindful of how dramatically the nation's refugee resettlement program—and the nation itself—has changed over the past decade. At the time of our first conference, African refugees constituted only a small segment of the annual admissions allocations. Most of those who were fortunate enough to be resettled came from just a few countries. There were only a few African community-based mutual assistance associations dedicated to helping the newcomers adjust to their new homeland. And there was a growing anti-newcomer attitude that soon led to the harsh immigration reform measures passed by Congress in 1996.

Now African refugees account for about a quarter of the total annual admissions ceiling. They come from more than 20 nations. Greeting and assisting them is a large and expanding network of African MAAs. And while the anti-immigrant sentiments of the mid-1990s were increasingly abating before the terrorist assault of 9/11—even prompting a “Fix ‘96 campaign” to rescind some of the legislation enacted earlier—new concerns have surfaced about the flow of refugees and immigrants, resulting in new legislation and more restrictive screening and processing procedures.

Fully supporting whatever changes are needed to help prevent future terrorist acts—while also recognizing the evolving relationships between diverse population segments—we concluded that now is an appropriate time to reexamine how well the nation is fulfilling its commitment to welcoming people from different cultures, customs, languages and beliefs, expecting them to embrace the goal of unity expressed in the motto *E Pluribus Unum*. By adding a question mark to the motto—translated from Latin as “Out of Many, One”—and linking it to Africans in America, we will this week pay special attention to the relationship between African refugee newcomers and African Americans, while also continuing our traditional effort to provide informational and technical assistance to those engaged in refugee affairs.

To the Office of Refuge Resettlement and to the organizations listed below, we express our deep gratitude for their financial support of this conference. And to the program participants, conference planners and others who have given so generously of their time and talents, we express heartfelt appreciation.

Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.
President

CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORS

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UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF

WORLD RELIEF REFUGEE SERVICES



MONDAY, June 13

7:30 a.m.	REGISTRATION AND COFFEE	Potomac Ballroom Foyer
8:30 a.m.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Potomac Ballroom
	Tsehaye Teferra, <i>President, ECDC</i> Henley Portner, <i>Director, Division of Community Resettlement, Office of Refugee Resettlement</i>	
8:45 a.m.	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Potomac Ballroom
	Howard Dodson, <i>Director, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture</i>	
9:30 a.m.	AMERICA'S RESPONSE TO AFRICAN REFUGEES	
Moderator/Presenter	Ralston Deffenbaugh, Jr., <i>President, LIRS</i>	
Presenters	Margaret McKelvey, <i>Director, Office of Assistance to Africa, BPRM, Department of State</i> Joseph Cuddihy, <i>Director, Asylum and Refugee Affairs Operations, USCIS, DHS</i> Nguyen Van Hanh, <i>Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, ACF, DHHS</i>	
11:00 a.m.	BREAK	Potomac Ballroom Foyer
11:15 a.m.	ONENESS? RECONCILING CULTURES, COLORS, CREEDS, CREDENTIALS	Potomac Ballroom
Moderator/Presenter	Salih Booker, <i>Executive Director, Africa Action</i>	
Presenters	Richard English, <i>Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Howard University*</i> Salih Omar Eissa, <i>Author, Diversity and Transformation: African American and African Immigration to the United States</i> Biko A. Sankofa, <i>President and CEO, The Sankofa Group</i>	
1:00 p.m.	LUNCH	Potomac Ballroom
2:30 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	A. GRANTSMANSHIP: CREATING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS	Monticello A
Presenter	Bob Klotz, <i>Vice President, Research and Program Development, Liberty Lutheran Services</i>	
	B. IN THEIR OWN VOICES: THE RESETTLEMENT EXPERIENCE OF THE SOMALI BANTUS	Potomac Ballroom
Moderator/Presenter	Daniel Van Lehman, <i>Deputy Director, Program for Somali Bantu Studies, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University</i>	
Presenters	Abdi A. Abdi, <i>Tucson, AZ</i> Abdi Salam Hassan Osman, <i>Milwaukee, WI</i> Ali Hussein Sheikh, <i>Portland, OR</i> Fatuma Osman Bulle, <i>Burlington, VT</i> Hassan Nur, <i>Chicago, IL</i> Rasulo M. Rasulo, <i>Denver, CO</i>	
	C. WELL-BEING: THE DELIVERY OF REFUGEE HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	Monticello B
Moderator	Yeshashwork Kibour, <i>Program Officer, ECDC</i>	
Presenters	Gennene Mengistu, <i>Program Director, Health Promotion and Education, ECDC</i> David McGraw Schuchman, <i>Mental Health Supervisor, Community University Health Care Center</i> Sahra Noor, <i>Registered Nurse, Community University Health Care Center</i>	

* Invited



MONDAY, June 13 (continued)

D. "STREETS OF GOLD"?: THE REALITIES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC ADAPTATION

Monticello C

Moderator/Presenter Peter H. Gebre, *Author, Making it in America*

Presenters Haile Sadik, *President & CEO, Autorent, Inc.*
Adem Araro, *President, Stop 4 All FoodMart*

4:00 p.m. BREAK

Potomac Ballroom Foyer

4:15 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION: REFUGEE CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Monticello A

Presenters Pindie Stephen, *Regional Cultural Orientation Coordinator, IOM Nairobi*
Miriam Burt, *Cultural Orientation Resource Center*

B. IDENTIFYING AND ASSISTING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND TORTURE

Monticello B

Moderator/Presenter Sheila Neville, *Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles*

Presenters Carolina Sheinfeld, *Coordinator, Torture Survivors Project, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles*
Antoinette AQUI, *Program Specialist, Office of Refugee Resettlement*
Qimmah Najeeullah, *Case Manager, Break the Chain Campaign*

C. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: RESETTLING THE SOMALI BANTUS

Potomac Ballroom

Moderator Scott Robbins, *Senior Technical Assistance Specialist, Mercy Housing*

Presenters Kay Bellor, *Senior National Resettlement Director, International Rescue Committee*
Rachel O'Hara, *Program Officer, Somali Bantu Program, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*
Zeinab A. Alisalih, *Case Manager, World Relief*
Jennifer Gueddiche, *Program Director, ECDC African Community Center*

D. LANGUAGE BARRIERS AND HEALTH ACCESS ISSUES OF THE BLACK IMMIGRANTS OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Monticello C

Moderator/Presenter Walter Lam, *President & CEO, Alliance for African Assistance*

Presenters Paul B. Simms, *President & CEO, Simms Technologies, Inc.*
Ruth Perot, *Executive Director, Summit Health Institute for Research & Education*

5:45 p.m. NETWORKING/HILL VISIT PREPARATION

7:00 p.m. TOWN HALL MEETING

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE: BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEWCOMER AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS & AFRICAN AMERICANS

Crystal Forum

Moderator Tony Regusters, *Consultant, ECDC*

Presenters Sunni M. Khalid, *Assistant News Editor and Senior Reporter, WYPR News*
Salih Booker, *Executive Director, Africa Action*
Sulayman Nyang, *Professor, African American Studies, Howard University*
Rev. Graylan Hagler, *Plymouth Congregational Church, Washington, DC*
Angelique Shofar, *Host, "Africa Meets Africa," WPFW-FM*
Josie Bass, *President, ALVA Consortium*



TUESDAY, June 14

7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION AND COFFEE Potomac Ballroom Foyer

8:30 a.m. 21ST CENTURY AFRICA: THE ROLE OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, AFRICAN UNION AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY Potomac Ballroom

Moderator/Presenter Michael C. Nwanze, *Professor, Department of Political Science, Howard University*

Presenters
Kolude Doherty, *Regional Representative to the U.S. and the Caribbean, UNHCR*
Kassahun Ayele, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia*
Professor George A. Obiozor, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**
Ibrahim M. Kamara, *Ambassador, Embassy of Sierra Leone*

10:00 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. CRIME-STOPPERS: PREVENTING AND DEALING WITH CRIME IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES Monticello A

Presenter Tessie Ajala, *Training Coordinator, National Crime Prevention Council, Outreach*

B. VOICE FOR THE FORGOTTEN: ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF VULNERABLE REFUGEE POPULATIONS Monticello B

Moderator/Presenter Sasha Chanoff, *Executive Director, Mapendo International*

Presenters
Robin Dunn Marco, *Director, IRC Phoenix*
Martin Ford, *Associate Director, Maryland Office for New Americans*

C. ROLE PLAYERS: RESETTLEMENT AND POST-RESETTLEMENT EXPERIENCES Monticello C

Moderator/Presenter Julie Gilbert Rosicky, *Director of Multicultural Services, Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees*

Presenters
Ioana D. Balint, *Director of Refugee Services, Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees*
Reed Coughlan, *Principal Investigator, Empire State College*
Abdirahman A. Yusuf, *Executive Director, Somali Development Center*
Jennifer Abbott, *Youth Services Program Coordinator, Somali Development Center*

11:30 a.m. BREAK Potomac Ballroom Foyer

11:45 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. REFUGEE PROCESSING UPDATE: FROM STATUS DETERMINATION TO RESETTLEMENT Monticello A

Moderator Joseph Moseray, *Program Officer, National Refugee Resettlement Division, ECDC*

Presenters
Anne-Marie McGranaghan, *Associate Resettlement Officer, UNHCR*
Mary Margaret Stone, *Program Officer for West Africa, Office of Refugee Operations, USCIS, DHS*
Geraldine Owens, *Coordinator, International Programs, Church World Service**
Lorie Seymour, *Operations Officer, International Organization for Migration*

B. REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS: STRENGTHENING OLD RELATIONSHIPS AND BUILDING NEW ONES Monticello B

Presenter Cheryl Hamilton, *Consultant, RefugeeWorks, LIRS*

* Invited



TUESDAY, June 14 (continued)

C. AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM TO INFLUENCE U.S. POLICIES TOWARD AFRICA

Monticello C

Moderator/Presenter Akenji Ndumu, *Associate, Africa Action*

Presenters Emira Woods, *Co-Director, Foreign Policy in Focus, Institute for Policy Studies*
 Mobolaji E. Aluko, *President, Nigerian Democratic Movement (NDM) and Professor at Howard University*
 Handel Mlilo, *US Representative, MDC Zimbabwe*

1:00 p.m. LUNCH **Potomac Ballroom**

2:30 p.m. CAPITOL HILL CONGRESSIONAL VISITS

7:00 p.m. DINNER BANQUET — 25 years of African Refugee Resettlement in the U.S.

WEDNESDAY, June 15

7:30 a.m. COFFEE **Potomac Ballroom Foyer**

8:30 a.m. NEVER AGAIN? DARFUR: TEN YEARS AFTER RWANDA **Potomac Ballroom**

Moderator/Presenter John Prendergast, *Special Advisor to the President, Crisis Group*

Presenters Jemera Rone, *Senior Researcher Africa Division, Human Rights Watch*
 Amir H. Idris, *Assistant Professor of African Studies, Fordham University*
 Mark Smith, *Director, Disaster Response, World Relief*

10:00 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. INTEGRATION: AFRICAN WOMEN AND YOUTH IN A NEW LAND

Potomac Ballroom

Moderator/Presenter Yeshashwork Kibour, *Program Officer, ECDC*

Presenter Mary Kay Jou, *Refugee School Project Director, International Institute of New Jersey*
 Laura Schmidt, *Senior Consultant and Program Coordinator, BRYCS, LIRS*
 Rohida Kohari, *Director, Torture Victim and Trafficking Program, African Community Resource Center*

B. THE CONTINENT THROUGH TINTED LENSES: HOW THE MEDIA SHAPES OUR VIEW OF AFRICA

Monticello A

Moderator/Presenter Christopher D. Cathcart, *Executive Director, One Diaspora Communication*

Presenters Frank Dexter Brown, *Associate Professor, and Journalism Program Coordinator, Morgan State University*
 Gumisai Mutume, *Reporter, Africa Recovery, Department of Public Information, United Nations*
 Khalil Abdullah, *Managing Editor, The Washington AFRO American Newspaper*

C. DOLLAR SIGNS: FINANCIAL EDUCATION TRAINING AND SERVICES FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

Monticello B

Moderator/Presenter Belay Embaye, *Program Director, ECDC Enterprise Development Group*

Presenters Lisa Budzilowicz, *Research Analyst, ISED Solutions*
 Michelle Wilson, *Loan and Technical Assistance Manger, ECDC Enterprise Development Group*



WEDNESDAY, June 15 (Continued)

D. SPECIAL POPULATION: THE SOMALI BANTUS IN THE U.S.

Monticello C

Moderator/Presenter Sasha Chanoff, *Executive Director, Mapendo International*

Presenters Matt Edmundson, *Somali Bantu Photography Project, The Institute for Global Leadership, Tufts University*
Tessa Neylan, *Somali Bantu Photography Project, Consultant, Mapendo International*

11:30 a.m. BREAK **Potomac Ballroom Foyer**

11:45 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. RESETTLING LIBERIAN REFUGEES: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Potomac Ballroom

Moderator/Presenter Lynn Morland, *Program Officer, BRYCS, MRS, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Presenters Robin Dunn Marcos, *Director, IRC, Phoenix, Arizona*
Martin Ford, *Associate Director, Maryland Office for New Americans*
Etalemahu Melaku Tsehay, *BRYCS, MRS, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*
Moses Kollie, *Phoenix, Arizona*

B. UNITY IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Monticello A

Presenters Burna L. Dunn, *ELT/TA Project Director, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning*
Yohannes Mengistu, *Employment Training Program Coordinator, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning*

C. PRE-AND-POST ARRIVAL SERVICES FOR REFUGEES WITH HIV/AIDS

Monticello B

Moderator Joseph Moseray, *Program Officer, National Refugee Resettlement Division, ECDC*

Presenters David Mosca, *Regional Migration Health Physician for Africa and Middle East, IOM Nairobi*
Kassahun Bisrat, *Executive Director, Alliance for Multicultural Community Services*
Betty Simons, *Director, Refugee Resettlement and Minority Health Promotion Center, International Institute of Rhode Island*

D. PARTNERSHIPS IN RECONNECTING FAMILIES SEPARATED BY ARMED CONFLICT AND DISASTER

Monticello C

Moderator/Presenter Mark Owens, *Tracing Associate, East and Central Africa, American Red Cross, National Headquarters*

Presenters Valerie Gow, *International Services, American Red Cross of King and Kitsap Counties*
Linda Klein, *Executive Director, Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center, American Red Cross, Central Maryland Chapter*

1:00 p.m. LUNCH

2:00 p.m. E PLURIBUS UNUM! HONORING THE VISION IN IMMIGRATION, CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Potomac Ballroom

Moderator/Presenter Mirna Torres, *Director Public Education and Advocacy, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.*

Presenters Kate Martin, *Director, Center for National Security Studies*
Christina DeConcini, *Director of Policy, National Immigration Forum*
Erin Corcoran, *Staff Attorney, Human Rights First*

3:30 p.m. SUMMATION AND ADJOURNMENT **Potomac Ballroom**

Tsehay Teferra, *President, ECDC*

Mission and Purpose

The Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) was established in 1983 as a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is 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. From the beginning and for the last 22 years, ECDC has been serving a diverse community of refugees and immigrants from around the world while focusing on the African newcomer community locally and nationally. ECDC is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, and is a major community-based service provider in the Washington, D.C., area. ECDC resettles refugees and offers educational, skills building, and social service programs at its branch offices in Arlington, Virginia, Denver, Colorado, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Washington, D.C., that help people achieve economically self-sufficient lives in their new homeland.

Regionally and nationally, ECDC engages in efforts to increase public awareness about domestic and international issues affecting the lives of African refugees and immigrants. ECDC also 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 and maintains an office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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

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