



For your Information

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NEWS FROM BEWC MEMBERS

AFRA is currently preparing the 2nd WDLS 2011 in Vienna. AFRA hereby invites all BEWC Members to participate and undertakes to waive registration fee for BEWC members. However travel and hotel cost will be covered individually. Please indicate **not later than 20.01.2011** if you plan to attend WDLS-EU 2011.

Adrienne George represented BEWC at the 3rd EU integration forum in Brussels on the 15th and 16th of December.

Also Adrienne has just published Black Women in Europe Power-List 2010, featuring the most powerful black women in Europe 2010. Congratulations, Adrienne! You should all take a look at it! The list is very empowering for all of us! Thanks Adrienne for your engagement!

<http://blog.blackwomenineurope.com/2010/12/03/a-list-of-our-own-the-most-powerful-black-women-in-europe>

Suzanne Diku is currently organizing the Italian section of BEWC. Well done Suzanne and good luck!

Margaret Konima Sesay is travelling to Sierra Leone to carry on a project on Women and Refugees. Well done, Margaret! Good luck for the project!

Salome Mbugwa is currently attending a course in Women's Empowerment and Leadership in the U.S. Good luck, Salome!

Yvette Jarvis recently hosted the FARE (Football against Racism in Europe) board meeting in Athens. Great job Yvette!!

NEWS AND INFORMATION

European Leaders urged to ratify the migrant workers convention

On 15 December 2010, on the eve of International Migrants Day, a delegation of international, European and Belgian civil society organizations and trade unions delivered a petition to the Belgian EU Presidency urging the EU Member States to

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ratify the UN Migrant Workers Convention. Over 6000 signatures were collected since July 2010, in a petition campaign that was launched by December 18 and the European Platform for Migrant Workers Rights (EPMWR). Amongst the signatories, a total of 68 Members of the European Parliament, from 5 different political groups and from 24 Member States, signed the call for ratification. Furthermore, around one thousand civil society organisations, faith-based groups and trade unions working at the national, European or international level supported the petition.
http://www.december18.net/sites/default/files/european_leaders_urged_to_ratify_mw_convention.pdf

Press release by MEPs: 9 EU countries do not guarantee access to health care for undocumented pregnant women and children

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from across the political spectrum were recently confronted with evidence of substantial inequalities in access to healthcare across the EU. A Public Hearing held on 8 December in Brussels highlighted how undocumented migrants – especially undocumented pregnant women and children – are threatened by both legislative and practical barriers when trying to access healthcare. MEPs joined Médecins du Monde, the HUMA network, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), the European Women's Lobby (EWL) and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) to call on European and national decision-makers to take action to protect the rights and health of these vulnerable groups, ensuring equitable access to healthcare for all, solidarity and the reduction of health inequalities, and implementing concrete policies with no discrimination linked to administrative status or financial resources.

<http://www.picum.org/sites/default/files/data/Home%20page/Joint%20press%20release%20on%20hearing%20healthcare%20EN.pdf>

Poland swears in Nigerian as first black MP

John Abraham Godson, a Polish citizen born and raised in Nigeria, has been sworn in as the first black member of Poland's parliament. Godson had served as a councillor in the city of Lodz before taking up a parliamentary seat, vacated by a party colleague after local elections. His entry into parliament has created a media stir in the mainly white country. He came to Poland in the 1990s, opening an English-language school and working as a pastor in a Protestant church. Mr Godson was beaten up twice in the early 1990s but he says attitudes to black people in Poland are changing for the better, particularly since the country joined the EU six years ago. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11990869>

Twenty-one Oxbridge colleges took no black students last year

A bleak portrait of racial and social exclusion at Oxford and Cambridge has been shown in official data which shows that more than 20 Oxbridge colleges made no offers to black candidates for undergraduate courses last year and one Oxford college has not admitted a single black student in five years. The university's



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admissions data confirms that only one black Briton of Caribbean descent was accepted for undergraduate study at Oxford last year. Figures revealed in requests made under the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act by the Labour MP David Lammy also show that Oxford's social profile is 89% upper- and middle-class, while 87.6% of the Cambridge student body is drawn from the top three socioeconomic groups. The average for British universities is 64.5%, according to the admissions body Ucas. The FoI data also shows that of more than 1,500 academic and lab staff at Cambridge, none are black. Thirty-four are of British Asian origin. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/dec/06/oxford-colleges-no-black-students>

"Russia for Russians" screamed by thousands voices

Since 11 December in the two biggest Russian cities, St. Petersburg and Moscow, thousands of football fans, members of nationalist groups and ordinary people, went out to the streets with the slogans "Moscow for Russians", "Russians ahead", "Your children will be responsible to what you did", "Kill!". This led to huge clashes with police. Reuters news agency quoted a witness as saying the injured included a number of passers-by, who appeared to be members of ethnic minorities from the Caucasus region, who were attacked by demonstrators. Two metro stations Teatralnaya and Okhotnyy Ryad of the city of Moscow were smashed. Racially motivated attacks and murders were occurring the whole weekend and the information about more incidents is coming constantly. Moreover several nationalistic actions have been recently announced in Russian cities. About two weeks ago it was announced that Russia will host the 2018 football World Cup. This incident, which had racist overtones, will cast a dark cloud over this recent success. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2010/dec/12/spartak-moscow-fans-violence>

Ireland: Government urged to protect minorities

The government should improve its protection of asylum seekers, Travellers, migrant workers and their families and victims of human trafficking, according to the Irish Human Rights Commission. The recommendations come in its report on Ireland's record on racial discrimination, which is published today, Human Rights Day. The report has been sent to the UN committee responsible for monitoring Ireland's record on racial discrimination. Ireland is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and will be examined on its record next February. The IHRC calls for the restoration of resources needed to carry out the work of combating discrimination, which it says were severely cut in 2008. <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/12/10/1224285193840.html>

Third EU-Africa summit: MEPs call for an EU law on "blood minerals"

The European Parliament backed plans to create an EU law ensuring traceability of imported minerals, as a tool to combat illegal exploitation of conflict minerals in African countries, in a resolution passed on Wednesday. This resolution



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assesses the outcome of the third EU-Africa summit of African and European heads of state in Tripoli on 30 November.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20101215IPR10134/html/Third-EU-Africa-summit-MEPs-call-for-an-EU-law-on-blood-minerals>

UNHCR urges EU and FRONTEX to ensure access to asylum procedures, amid sharp drop in arrivals via the Mediterranean

UNHCR is urging EU member states, and FRONTEX as the EU's external border agency, to ensure that asylum in Europe is not being threatened in the drive for tighter policing of the continent's external borders. Europe should not forget that among those seeking to enter the EU are people who need international protection and are at risk of their lives. Evidence of how difficult it has become for people seeking protection in Europe can be seen in the data on arrivals by sea in the central Mediterranean. Italy, Greece, Cyprus, and Malta have all seen drastic reductions in arrivals by sea over the past year or two, almost certainly a result of tighter border controls, joint patrols and push-backs at sea. UNHCR estimates that some 8,800 people arrived by sea in the first 10 months of this year, compared to 32,000 in the same period in 2009 – a 72.5 percent decrease. Close to two thirds of the 2010 sea arrivals have been in Greece, while a third were in Italy, and the rest in Malta and Cyprus. UNHCR recognizes the need for border management, but this must be protection-sensitive.
<http://www.unhcr.org/4d022a946.html>

England Smartest Family is Black

Peter and Paula Imafidon, 9-year-old twins from Waltham Forest in northeast London, are a part of the highest-achieving clan in the history of Great Britain education. The two youngest siblings are about to make British history as the youngest students to ever enter high school. They astounded veteran experts of academia when they became the youngest to ever pass the University of Cambridge's advanced mathematics exam. That's on top of the fact they have set world records when they passed the A/AS-level math papers.
<http://rollingout.com/newsapolitics/news/8530-englands-smartest-family-is-black.html>

GendeRace project presents findings on discrimination in the EU

The GendeRace project, funded by the European Commission's Seventh Framework programme, has investigated the combined effects of gender and racial/ethnic discrimination in Europe. The project took place in six countries: France, Bulgaria, Germany, Spain, Sweden and the UK. It investigated the intersection of racial/ethnic and gender discrimination, and how national and EU law is currently addressing this issue. The research indicated that gender has a significant impact on the experience of racial discrimination.
<http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp?news=25715>

Swiss Deportation Referendum success puts Human Rights at risk

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Amnesty International urges the Swiss authorities at all levels not to enforce the deportation of foreigners convicted of certain criminal offences if this will result in human rights violations after voters backed the move in a referendum on Sunday. If put into practice, the amendment to the constitution risks violating Switzerland's obligations under international law, in particular the obligation not to return anyone to a country where they would be at risk of torture or other forms of persecution," said John Dalhuisen, Europe and Central Asia Deputy Programme Director. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/swiss-deportation-referendum-success-puts-human-rights-risk-2010-11-28>

Long-term resident status in the EU for beneficiaries of international protection

Refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection will be able to acquire long-term resident status in the member states of the EU on a similar basis to other third-country nationals legally living in the EU for more than five years. The Permanent Representatives Committee of the Council of the EU agreed on the necessary amendments to Directive 2003/109/EC, as previously negotiated with the rapporteur of the European Parliament. http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/117860.pdf

Strasbourg Court Says Russia's Banning of Gay Marches Violates Article 14

On 21 October 2010, the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Alekseyev v Russia* (application nos. 4916/07, 25924/08 and 14599/09) found that freedom of peaceful assembly should be guaranteed without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, irrespective of the moral and religious beliefs of the majority of society. The Court held that the banning of gay pride marches due to the anticipated violent reactions and threat to public order could not be justified as necessary in a democratic society and was therefore a violation of both Articles 11 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. <http://www.equalrightstrust.org/newsstory251110/index.htm>

EU launches Disability Strategy 2010 - 2020

On 15 November 2010 the European Commission adopted a new strategy to break down the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating in society on an equal basis. The strategy outlines how the EU and national governments can empower people with disabilities so they can enjoy their rights. Specific measures over the next decade range from the study on mutual recognition of national disability cards, the promotion of standardisation to a more targeted use of public procurement and state aid rules. These measures will have substantial societal benefits, but should also produce a knock-on effect on Europe's economy. They could for example enhance the EU market for assisted devices and services, which already today has an estimated annual value of over €30

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billion. <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=933&urtherNews=yes>

Equality Summit: The need for a strong European equality and diversity strategy for employment

The 4th Equality Summit, organised within the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union at the initiative of Joëlle Milquet, Deputy Prime Minister for Equal Opportunities, was held on November 15th and 16th in Brussels. It focused on the fight against discrimination and on the promotion of equality in the workplace. The Belgian Presidency's goal for the Summit was, with the support of Viviane Reding, Deputy Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, to identify approaches to strengthen the strategy to fight discrimination in employment. Joëlle Milquet insisted on the urgency of adopting a more proactive approach to dealing with equality and diversity in employment at the European level and within the Member States. <http://www.eutrio.be/pressrelease/equality-summit-need-strong-european-equality-and-diversity-strategy-employment>

European Youth in Action e-learning tool on tolerance

An exciting e-learning tool has been developed to explore the meaning and limits of tolerance. The tool is available in five European languages - Bulgarian, Spanish, Portuguese, English and Dutch. The Bulgarian Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) is the promoter of the E-Tolerance Test project, which is financially supported by the European Youth in Action Program. The overall mission of this project is to strengthen European values and empower young people in democratic citizenship. The E-Tolerance Test is not a test with scientific pretensions but a challenging didactical mean to investigate tolerance and stimulate the debate of equality and freedom of speech in pluralistic and multi-ethnic societies. <http://www.equineteurope.org/380583.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS: CONFERENCES; MEETINGS, JOB OPPORTUNITIES etc.

Seminar: 'The Role of Institutional and Policy Contexts in Ethnic Political Representation: are Multicultural Models the Solution?'

This seminar session will assess, in a comparative perspective, the relative merits of varying citizenship regimes and policy approaches to ethnic and migrant minorities' incorporation for the promotion of their political representation. Thus, the seminar will focus, primarily, on the policy and wider institutional environment (i.e. parliament, local government, the media) and how they shape the opportunities for ethnic minorities to integrate into mainstream politics. In doing so, we will evaluate the claims that multicultural models of citizenship and incorporation are in a privileged position to foster the political inclusion of migrant and ethnic minorities. The seminar takes place on 21st January 2011, 10am - 4.30pm. Venue: Hanson Room, Humanities Bridgeford Street, University of Manchester

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<http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/socialchange/seminars/representation/Seminar4.html>

Urgent reminder to NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC wishing to attend CSW55

NGOs that are accredited to and in good standing with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), may designate a number of representatives to attend the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/>). The 55th session of the CSW will take place on 22 February – 4 March 2011. Pre-registration will close on 31 December 2010.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/NGO.html#registration>

Conference on secularism, racism and the politics of belonging

The conference explores the ways in which questions of race, religion and religious affiliation operate in state policies and civil society in Britain and beyond. It brings together academics and researchers, community activists, race equality groups, and leading figures from secular, Christian, Muslim and Jewish organisations. Admission to the conference is free but places are limited. Venue University of East London - Thursday 27 January 2011 <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/249/391/Secularism-racism-and-the-politics-of-belonging.html>

Conference I.N.T.E.G.R.A.T.I.O.N. - Institutional and Life-Course Perspectives on Migration

The joint research group "Migration and Social Inequality" of the Hans-Boeckler Foundation and the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS) is organising its first international conference on integration. Conference topics will be: Integration vs. Assimilation, educational performance of the first, second and third immigrant generations, return migration, multiple identities, role of migrant organizations, multinational companies and institutions. The conference will take place on 20-22 January, 2011 <http://www.bigsss-bremen.de/about-us/network/boecklergroup/integration>

Integration Learning and Exchange webinar on political integration of urban migrants in global cities.

The City of Migration webinar "Ballot Box to the Podium: Mobilizing Immigrant Voters for New Leadership" will take place on 25 January 2011. The 60 minute webinar will explore successful strategies for promoting the political participation of old and new immigrant communities. Participants will learn about community initiatives in Boston and Toronto that are building successful political engagement programs from the ground up by mobilizing the immigrant vote and giving front-line candidates from ethnically diverse communities the tools and training they need to organize and run for elected office. <http://citiesofmigration.ca/integration-learning-exchange/calendar/lang/en>

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Minority Voices Young Journalist Award

Minority Rights Group International will present the Minority Voices Young Journalist Award to one outstanding young journalist wanting to highlight within the European media the issues facing minority and indigenous communities in the global south. Student journalists or working journalists under the age of 30 are eligible to apply. Television, radio, online and print journalists are invited to compete. The stories could be about minority or indigenous communities struggling to access clean drinking water, women discriminated at work or children who are left out of school because of their identity. As well stories on education, gender, poverty, health and the environment. The deadline for entries is 31 December 2010. <http://www.minorityrights.org/10350/press-releases/minority-voices-young-journalist-award.html>

Vacancy for a Media Assistant (Internship Position) at JRS Europe

JRS-Europe seeks a Media Assistant (internship) to be a part of the Policy, Communications and Project Development team. The Media Assistant will assist the JRS-Europe team in the publication of internal and external newsletters, the annual report and other communications materials. S/he will also support the designing and maintenance of JRS-Europe's main website, www.jrseurope.org, and the organisation of media events and public conferences. The application deadline is 11th January 2011. [http://www.jrseurope.org/publications/Vacancy%20Media%20Assistant%20\(Internship%20Position\).pdf](http://www.jrseurope.org/publications/Vacancy%20Media%20Assistant%20(Internship%20Position).pdf)

Vacancies at the Open Society Roma Initiatives

The Open Society Roma Initiatives are seeking qualified applicants for three positions at their Budapest offices: a Program coordinator, a Program manager and a Senior Policy Officer. The application deadline for all three positions is January 2, 2011. http://www.romadecade.org/vacancies_at_the_open_society_roma_initiatives

PUBLICATIONS

IOM's 2010 World Migration Report

"The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change", argues that in a world where demographics, economic needs and the effects of environmental change are driving the inexorable rise in numbers of international migrants, governments and non-state actors have little choice but to invest adequate financial and human resources to ensure States, societies and migrants reap the full potential of future migration. WMR 2010 notes that responses to current and emerging migration challenges and opportunities are often short-term, piecemeal and fragmented. This is having a profound effect on human mobility and economic and social development, with every country affected in some way.



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<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/media/news-releases/newsArticleEU/cache/offonce?entryId=28709>

Human Rights Watch report on abuse against migrants

The 48-page roundup of Human Rights Watch reporting on violations of migrants' rights in 2010, "Rights on the Line: Human Rights Watch Work on Abuses against Migrants in 2010," includes coverage of Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. "Migrants are consistently among those at highest risk of abuse, but also among those least likely to have access to services or justice," said Nisha Varia, senior women's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/12/12/global-flawed-policies-expose-migrants-abuse>

WIDE report – Women's Labour Migration in the Context of Globalisation

The report offers an introduction to important contemporary political analysis on the influence of globalisation on women's work, mobility and empowerment. Women migrate for work across the globe in many different sectors; the analysis of internal and intra-regional migration patterns shows that many of them find work in agriculture and export-oriented sectors, where women's relatively low wages constitute a comparative advantage. The hiring of (young, flexible, cheap) women workers forms an explicit strategy of governments and big corporations in the export sector. <http://www.womenlobby.org/spip.php?article773&lang=en>

Publication: „Income and living conditions in Europe“

In the EU27, 116 million people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2008. How many people are poor in the EU? Is inequality increasing? Does a job guarantee escape from poverty? Questions like these and many others on poverty and social exclusion as well as housing, health and education are analysed in the new publication 'Income and living conditions in Europe' issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. As regards income poverty, 81 million persons (or 17% of the population) in the EU27 in 2008 were at risk of poverty after social transfers, meaning that their disposable income was below their national at-risk-of-poverty threshold. Latvia (26%), Romania (23%) and Bulgaria (21%) had the highest at risk-of-poverty rates, and the Czech Republic (9%), the Netherlands and Slovakia (both 11%) the lowest.

This publication is based on data from the EU-SILC survey, and is issued in connection with the conference of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, which took place in Brussels on 16 and 17 December 2010.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/10/190&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

ENAR Report "Target-setting for improving the socio-economic situation of migrants and ethnic minorities in Europe"

ENAR has published a report entitled "Target-setting for improving the socio-economic situation of migrants and ethnic minorities in Europe", commissioned to the Migration Policy Group, which forms the second part of an ENAR research

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project on monitoring and improving the situation of migrants and ethnic minorities in the context of the EU's Lisbon and Europe 2020 strategies. It takes the process of monitoring the situation of migrants and ethnic minorities one step further by suggesting that the EU and its member states consider using target-setting as a tool to improve the situation of migrants and ethnic minorities. <http://www.enar-eu.org/Page.asp?docid=15845&langue=EN>

Autumn Runnymede Bulletin

This autumn edition of the Runnymede Bulletin focuses on women and their organisations. Articles on ethnic minority women and the labour market; the emergence of a more inclusive brand of feminism; young black girls and school exclusions; tales of Bangladeshi migrants over the past six decades; diversity and older people, the effects of double-discrimination on ethnic minority women, as well as news, features, reviews and key facts on race and women. <http://www.scribd.com/doc/38420833/Autumn-2010-Runnymede-Bulletin>

Annual OSCE/ODIHR Report for 2009: Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region - Incidents and Responses

The OSCE Office for Security and Cooperation in Europe published its annual report for 2009 „Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses. The report is prepared annually by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as part of the OSCE's efforts to combat hate crimes. The report shows that hate crime remains a significant problem in many of the participating states in Europe, the former Soviet Union and in North America, with the potential to escalate into wider social conflict.

http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2010/11/47692_1563_en.pdf

We appreciate suggestions, feedback and would like to know your current activities!

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