Conference

Eritrea and the Ongoing Refugee Crisis
Brussels, October 19th, 2017

The conference will highlight the worsening Eritrean refugee crisis and the need to provide protection for Eritrean asylum seekers in the relevant EU host countries. By bringing together the voices of experts and refugees, and portraying a clear picture of the situation in Eritrea and raising broader awareness, it will promote responsible European and international response to the Eritrean refugee crisis.

Programme

9:15 Registration

9:45 Welcome and Introductions
By Klara Smits (EEPA) and Tesfalem Araia (EMDHR)

10:00 Welcome Address
Claus-Peter Appel, Deputy Director of the Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union

10:05 Human Rights Situation in Eritrea
Sheila B. Keetharuth, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations on the situation of human rights in Eritrea

10:45 Panel I
Challenges of Eritrean Asylum Seekers in the European Union
A personal story of an Eritrean refugee
Prof. Gaim Kibreab, London South Bank University: Response to the Eritrean Migration – The Khartoum Process
Dr. Daniel R. Mekonnen, Eritrean Law Society: Understanding the EU Asylum Regime
Dr. Sarah Ogbay, Former Lecturer of Asmara’s University: Unaccompanied Child Migrants
Aspasia Papadopoulou, European Council on refugees and Exiles (ECRE): Situation of Eritrean Refugees in Europe
With others

12:15 Lunch

13:15 Panel II
Conscription, Forced Labour and Gender Perspectives
A personal story of an Eritrean refugee
Dawit Mesfin, Writer and former Director of Justice Africa: The Governance Crisis in Eritrea
Selam Kidane, Human Rights Activist and Researcher: Forced Militarisation and Forced Labour
Alex Jackson: Coordinator for Eritrea of Amnesty International: Human Rights Abuses and Religious Persecution
Moderation: MEP Ana Gomes

14:45 Coffee Break
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td><strong>Panel III</strong></td>
<td><strong>Refugee Crisis – Needs and Perspectives</strong></td>
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<td>A personal story of an Eritrean refugee</td>
<td>Dr. Adane Ghebremeskel, EMDHR, The State of Eritrean Refugees in Africa</td>
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<td><strong>Perspectives</strong></td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Mirjam van Reisen, Tilburg and Leiden Universities and Director Europe External Policy Advisors (EEPA): Human Trafficking and the need of intervention</td>
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<td><strong>Father Mussie Zerai, Agenzia Habeshia:</strong></td>
<td>Protection needs of Eritrean refugees</td>
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<td><strong>Martin Plaut, journalist, Relations Eritrea and European Union</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderation:</strong></td>
<td>MEP Marie-Christine Vergiat</td>
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<td>16:40</td>
<td><strong>Conclusion and Closing</strong></td>
<td>By Helen Kidan (EMDHR) and Rudi Friedrich (Connection e.V.)</td>
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The conference will be held in English, Tigrinya and Arabic.

Location
Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union: 21, Rue Montoyer, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Contact
If you have any questions, please contact us at ConferenceEritrea2017@Connection-eV.org

Organisers
The Eritrean Movement for Democracy and Human Rights, EEPA, Förderverein Pro Asyl e.V., Connection e.V., War Resisters’ International, the Eritrean Law Society, kindly hosted by the Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union. We thank for the support of Umverteilen! – Foundation for a solidary world and A.J. Muste Memorial Institute.

Registration closed. Admission free. Donations are welcomed to the account of Connection e.V., IBAN DE48 3702 0500 0007 0857 00, SWIFT/BIC BFSWDE33XXX. Keyword: Eritrea

More information can be found at www.Connection-eV.org/ConferenceEritrea2017
www.wri-irg.org/ConferenceEritrea2017