

ECDC NEWS

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

901 S. Highland Street. Arlington, Virginia 22204

Phone: (703) 685-0510 • Fax: (703) 685-0529 • E-mail: ecdcinternational.org • Web Site: ecdcinternational.org

For more information:

Saba Berhane
(703) 685-0510 Ext. 217

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ECDC's National Conference on African Refugees Set for June 13-15 at Marriott Crystal City Hotel

The 11th national conference on African refugees conducted annually by the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) will be held June 13-15 at the Marriott Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Under the overall theme *E Pluribus Unum? Africans in America*, the conference will examine how well America has pursued—and is pursuing—the widely-admired motto chosen by the nation's founders, said ECDC President Tsehaye Teferra.

“Joining African refugees as newcomers in recent years has been an expanding influx of legal immigrants who have come in search of higher education, entrepreneurial opportunities and political freedom,” Teferra said. “By adding a question mark to the motto—translated from Latin as ‘Out of Many, One’ and appearing on our coins and the Great Seal of the United States, we signal our intention to explore both the changing nature of the refugee resettlement program and how the commitment to ‘oneness’ embraces such diverse population segments.”

Plenary sessions will include a special emphasis on the relationship between African Americans and African newcomers, and the need for a greater sense of global unity in resolving the civil, ethnic and religious conflicts that generate refugee flows, he said. Concurrent workshops will provide information and assistance to those involved in program development and service delivery activities in such areas as health and mental services, victims of human trafficking and torture, the changing roles of African women in a new land, housing and cultural orientation.

Attending the conference will be representatives of state and local refugee service providers and voluntary agencies, officials from national and international refugee organizations, recent newcomers to America, and others involved in humanitarian issues and international affairs.

For information on registration fees, lodging arrangements and other program details, call Saba Berhane at (703) 685-0510, Ext. 232, or visit the web site at: www.ecdcinternational.org.