

## Conference

# Eritrea and the Ongoing Refugee Crisis

Brussels, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 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** 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  
Dr. Asia Abdulkadir, Gender Consultant at UNDP: Situation of Eritrean Women  
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

14:45	Coffee Break	
15:00	<b>Panel III</b> Refugee Crisis – Needs and Perspectives	A personal story of an Eritrean refugee Dr. Adane Ghebremeskel, EMDHR, The State of Eritrean Refugees in Africa Father Mussie Zerai, Agenzia Habeshia: Protection needs of Eritrean refugees Martin Plaut, journalist, Relations Eritrea and European Union With others
16:40	Conclusion and Closing	By Helen Kidan (EMDHR) and Rudi Friedrich (Connection e.V.)
17:00	End	

**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](mailto: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.*

**Register at** <https://goo.gl/sDSDrw>

Registration required. 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](http://www.Connection-eV.org/ConferenceEritrea2017)

[www.wri-irg.org/ConferenceEritrea2017](http://www.wri-irg.org/ConferenceEritrea2017)