

**Ethiopian Community
Development Council**

Banquet Program

**Making the Grade:
Giving Back**

May 3, 2012

Arlington, Virginia

ECDC

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Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.
Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983

About ECDC

ECDC was established in 1983 to respond to the needs of the growing Ethiopian community in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. It has since grown into an organization with national and international reach. As a multi-service provider, ECDC is dedicated to helping refugees and immigrants become productive, self-sufficient members of their communities and to strengthening the support systems that help them to succeed. Cultural and ethnic diversity is a hallmark of ECDC, and its multicultural staff speak over 30 languages.

Program support comes from corporations; foundations; individual contributions; in-kind donations; faith-based institutions; and local, state, and federal agencies.

Banquet Description

ECDC's banquet is held every year in conjunction with our national conference on African refugees and immigrants. It brings together local leaders, community organizers, and refugee and immigrant service providers and supporters for a night of networking, entertainment and reflection on the obstacles and accomplishments of the immigrant community over the past year.

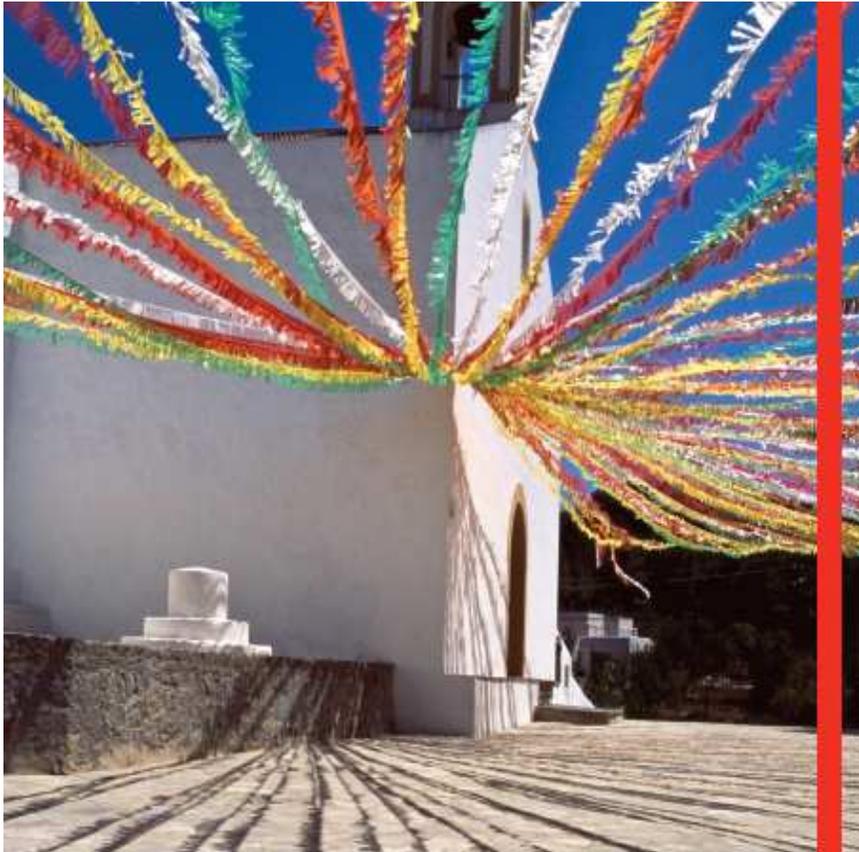
At the banquet, we also recognize the accomplishments and contributions that African newcomers make to their new homeland as well as their countries of origin, while honoring those who have advocated on behalf of refugees and immigrants.



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Making the Grade: Giving Back

This year ECDC's conference highlights the consequence of conflict on the lives of African refugees and immigrants, while recognizing the contribution of the African diaspora to their countries of origin and to their new communities. In recognition of the spirit of giving back, our banquet acknowledges the many contributions of Africans in building peace.

Instability in parts of Africa adorns most media headlines today. However, the second largest continent cannot be ascribed solely to one subject. Among the many positive aspects of African life is in former conflict areas. As a testament to initiatives in resolving conflict, Sudan ended its civil war through a peaceful referendum which created South Sudan. Similarly, in the hopes of bringing closure to bygone conflicts, Rwanda is welcoming back its displaced citizens from neighboring countries.

In this past year, peace-building efforts of African women were recognized by the Norwegian Nobel Committee who awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to two Liberians – President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and peace-activist Leymah Roberta Gbowee, in recognition of “their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work.” Gbowee is identified as a key figure in the eventual peace deal that ended the second Liberian civil war in 2003. Gbowee's women's peace movement was the catalyst for Sirleaf's election, and the latter has been credited for building peace and reconciliation in a country ravaged by civil war.

ECDC honors the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize Leymah Gbowee and President Ellen Sirleaf, and all others who fight for the cause of peace and stability.

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EVENING PROGRAM

- 6:30 p.m. Cash Bar & Networking
- 7:35 p.m. Welcome
Tsehaye Teferra
President, ECDC
- Mistress of Ceremonies
Maureen Bunyan,
Lead Co-Anchor, ABC 7/WJLA-TV
- 7:45 p.m. Dinner & Entertainment
Tom Band: Instrumental Ethiopian Folk Music
Abraham Worku (drums, Band Leader)
Getachew Workiye (*washint*, Ethiopian flute)
Minale Dagnaw (*kirar*, Ethiopian lyre)
- 8:30 p.m. Guest Speaker
Emira Woods
Co-Director of Foreign Policy in Focus
Institute for Policy Studies
- 9:15 p.m. ECDC Awards Presentation
- 10:00 p.m. Raffle Drawing
- 10:30 p.m. End of Program