

ECDC NEWS

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ECDC's National Conference on African Refugees Set for May 12-14 at Washington Marriott Hotel

The ninth national conference on African refugees conducted by the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) will be held May 12-14 at the Washington Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Under the overall theme *African Refugees: The Enduring Search for Durable Solutions*, the conference will examine the current status of the United States refugee resettlement program and refugee producing conflicts on the African continent; provide information on how refugee and immigration responsibilities are being restructured within the new Department of Homeland Security; offer practical assistance to local African mutual assistance associations serving African newcomers; and assess public policies and attitudes affecting refugee admissions in a post-9/11 environment.

“With the refugee resettlement program still struggling to implement new security and clearance procedures resulting from the terrorist attacks, admissions slowed to a mere trickle, federal responsibilities in a state of flux, and thousands of refugees desperately awaiting rescue, the conference comes at critical time,” said ECDC President Tsehaye Teferra. “It will hopefully help restore a focus on America’s traditional role of leadership in serving the dispossessed even as steps are taken to enhance the nation’s security.”

Attending the conference will be representatives of Community Based Organizations, 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, lodging arrangements and other program details, call Saba Berhane at (703) 685-0510, Ext. 232, or visit the web site at: www.ecdcinternational.org.