



### DATES

#### JANUARY 4

In 1963, the General Assembly approved the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) began operating 4 January 1969.

Under the Convention, States parties are pledged:

- To engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination against individuals, groups of persons or institutions, and to ensure that public authorities and institutions do likewise;
- Not to sponsor, defend or support racial discrimination by persons or organizations;
- To review government, national and local policies and to amend or repeal laws and regulations which create or perpetuate racial discrimination;
- To prohibit and put a stop to racial discrimination by persons, groups and organizations; and
- To encourage integrationist or multiracial organizations and movements and other means of eliminating barriers between races, as well as to discourage anything which tends to strengthen racial division."

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



#### The Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings enters into force on 1 February 2008

The Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings enters into force on 1 February 2008.

The Convention aims to prevent trafficking, protect the human rights of victims and prosecute traffickers.

It applies to all victims of trafficking: women, men and children alike; to all forms of exploitation (sexual exploitation, forced labour, servitude, removal of organs etc.) and it covers all forms of trafficking: national and transnational, related or not to organised crime.

Full text of the Convention is available here:

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=197&CM=8&DF=&CL=ENG>

### EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL NEWS



#### 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue: Together in Diversity

Throughout the year, everyone living in the EU, especially young people, is encouraged to explore the benefits of our rich cultural heritage and has the opportunity to learn from different cultural traditions. The Year will feature a small number of flagship projects on a European level, as well as EU support for a national project in

each Member State, and a Partner programme aimed at mobilising civil society.

Find out more about the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue on:

<http://www.interculturaldialogue2008.eu>



**SHOWCOMOTION** Young People's Film Festival  
26 June - 10 July 2008 Showroom Cinema, Sheffield, England

#### Showcomotion 2008: Young People's Film Festival

Young people aged 2-19 from all around the world are invited to participate in this festival and to submit their films. The festival screens films made by and for children and young people. There are three sections: Panorama Programme; the UNICEF UK AWARDS; and the Steel City Globe Awards. Animation, live action and documentaries on the theme of young people's rights can be submitted. The duration of the film is to be no more than 30 minutes.

**Deadline for sending entries is 31st March 2008.**

All details about the festival and how to submit your film can be found here:

[www.showcomotion.org.uk](http://www.showcomotion.org.uk)

### BALTIC SEA SECRETARIAT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS NEWS



**Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) Working Group on Youth Policy meeting in Oslo**

Youth participants and youth workers from Denmark, Norway, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Russia met in Akershus House in Oslo, 16-18 January. During two busy days many topics were discussed and many decisions were taken. The youth Board members intent to present the problems of the young people in regions to the BSSSC Board and at the same time the youth will be informed on the work and decisions taken by the BSSSC Board.

The Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) is a political network for decentralised authorities (subregions) in the Baltic Sea Region.

The BSSSC was founded in Stavanger, Norway, 1993. Its participants are regional authorities (level directly below the national level authorities) of the 10 Baltic Sea littoral states.

The BSSSC co-operates closely with other key Baltic Sea Region and European organisations and institutions. The BSSSC has signed a Declaration of Common Interest with the Committee of the Regions in 2007 and opened its network for other BSR organisations on local and regional level to become participants (B7, UBC).

BSSSC youth work is supported by the Youth in Action Programme already and the BSSSC youth project has been presented in the newest brochure published by the Norwegian Youth Programme Agency.

<http://www.bsssc.com>