



### COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



**5 MAY 1949**

Treaty of London, establishing the Council of Europe, signed by ten states: Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

More about history of the Council of Europe read here:

<http://www.coe.int/60years/default.asp?l=en>

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS

#### **EQUALITY IN ACTION – Spring Edition 2009**

The Spring 2009 edition of the European Commission's on-line magazine dedicated to Equality in Action is now available on the European Commission website.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=427&langId=en&moreDocuments=yes>

This edition of "Equality in Action" highlights some of the recent events that took place throughout Europe in the field of inclusion and equality for all. They include the latest seminar on Diversity and the Media, held in Prague, and the latest conference on the Business Case for Diversity. The newsletter also provides more information on the recently established Governmental Expert Group in the field of non-discrimination, and the Prague Seminar on Roma inclusion.

### UNITED NEWS

#### **INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE DAY**

**20th June 2009**

The 20th of June symbolises the UN 'International Refugee Day' and marks a common date when people all over Europe stand up together for an important cause: give a voice to the victims of the building of Fortress Europe!

#### **Join the European-wide Campaign on 20 June 2009!**

Every year UNITED coordinates a European-wide campaign around the 'International Refugee Day'. Several actions of migrant- and refugee-, as well as asylum seeker groups and anti-discrimination organisations raise awareness about the situation on European borders and lobby on local and national level for the rights of refugees across the continent.

Also this year UNITED calls for a clear stand against the carrying on of policies building up Fortress Europe. The policies adopted are dangerously promoting xenophobic ideas within Europe and directly or indirectly acting against migration.

Instead of discouraging refugees from entering Europe, these policies lead them to death.

Hundreds of migrants and asylum seekers all over Europe search for refuge from persecution, war, injustice and for a better economic security. In recent years European immigration routes have become a dead end. So far, 'improving' the migration policy aimed to step up the wall that pretends to protect us against the unwanted ones. These 'illegals' are found day by day drowned in fishnets, starved in locked trucks or suffocated in sealed container.

Europe itself once reached doesn't necessarily turn into a safe place to them. Lots of them die or kill themselves inside the Fortress, due to misery conditions in refugee centres and harsh psychological situations.

More background information about this campaign can be found under: <http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pages/camprefc.htm>

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Training course on youth participation and youth policy development in Turkey**

22–29 June 2009, Ankara, Turkey

This course is developed by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe together with the General Directorate of Youth and Sport of Turkey.

The aim of the course is to develop participants' competences in enhancing youth participation in Turkey and in European projects and to stimulate co-operation between different actors in the youth field in Turkey for youth policy development and implementation.

The course will bring together 30 participants, of which 20 will be from Turkey. This call is open only for residents of one of the parties to the European Cultural Convention other than Turkey. Residents of Turkey interested in this call should apply directly to General Directorate for Youth and Sports of Turkey. The course will be held in English and Turkish with interpretation.

The application form can be filled in English and should be submitted by 3 June 2009 at the latest.

The application form should be filled in on-line, available at

<http://courses.opencontent.it>

#### **Call for participation on the Forum on Human Rights Education**

The Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe is looking for participants for the Forum on Human Rights to be held at the European Youth Centre Budapest from 15 to 17 October 2009.

This forum aims to promote, consolidate and develop human rights education with and by young people within the Council of Europe's mission and framework and to associate young people with the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe.

Deadline for applications is **10 June 2009**.

All candidates must apply by filling in the online application form available at

<http://courses.opencontent.it> for applications in English

<http://fre.courses.opencontent.it/> for applications in French

<http://rus.courses.opencontent.it/> for applications in Russian