



### DATES

**20 JUNE**  
**WORLD REFUGEE DAY**



In 2001 a special UN General Assembly Resolution was adopted to declare the former African Refugee Day as the International Refugee Day as an expression of solidarity with Africa, which hosts the most refugees.

The General Assembly noted that 2001 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to have the International Refugee Day coincide with African Refugee Day on 20 June.

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



#### **Council of Europe and EU Agency for Fundamental Rights sign cooperation agreement**

On 18 June, the Council of Europe and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights signed a cooperation agreement which is intended to reinforce complementarity and avoid unnecessary duplication in the field of human rights protection in Europe.

The agreement, which was signed in Strasbourg by Terry Davis, the Secretary General the Council of Europe and Janez Lenarčič, the Slovenian State Secretary for European Union Affairs on behalf of the EU, will also provide opportunities for joint activities to promote human rights.

This cooperation agreement is an important step towards a coherent and effective system of fundamental rights protection for Europe, based on common standards

#### **Children's rights in Europe should be enhanced through a strategy**

How to protect and promote children's rights and to improve the situation of children were at the focus for a thematic debate in the 1030th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.

After the Warsaw Summit in 2005, the Council of Europe launched a number of measures for combating violence against children and sexual exploitation of children.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### **European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)**

**Strengthening the role of civil society  
in promoting human rights and democratic reform,  
in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group  
interests and in consolidating political participation  
and representation**

#### **Restricted Call for Proposals 2008**

The objective of the call is to assist civil society in non-EU countries through regional and transnational activities in developing greater cohesion in working on human rights, political pluralism and democratic political participation and representation, in contributing to the peaceful conciliation of group interests, combating discrimination on any ground, and in developing equal participation of men and women in social, economic and political life, thus becoming an effective force for positive change, through cooperation among local civil society organisations and stakeholders.

Deadline: **30 September 2008**

More about the call read here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/tender/data/d65/AOF86365.doc>

### LEARN ABOUT...



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly.

The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees.

It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

In more than five decades, the agency has helped an estimated 50 million people restart their lives. Today, a staff of around 6,300 people in more than 110 countries continues to help 32.9 million persons.

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<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>