

DATES



World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is annually held on May 21 to help people learn about the importance of cultural diversity and harmony.

Various events are organized to increase the understanding of issues around cultural diversity and development among governments, non-governmental organizations and the public. Many of these include presentations on the progress of implementing the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is an observance and not a public holiday.

http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/cultural_diversity/

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



Much more needs to be done to fight all forms of violence against children

In an international conference, the Council of Europe brought together some 50 participants from over 20 countries worldwide to implement the UN mandate of eliminating all forms of violence against children. Participants took stock of progress made to fight such violence, but concluded that governments need to make progress internally, better coordinate efforts to defend children and more efficiently and accurately collect data. The participants welcomed upcoming initiatives of the Council of Europe including the pan-European Campaign to end sexual violence against children, which will be launched in Rome on 29 November.

Adopted conference conclusions include:

- promote child-friendly policy-planning and budgeting, including child impact assessment;
- assure the participation of children in the definition and implementation of violence prevention policies;
- ensure the independence and enhance the monitoring role of national ombudspersons for children;
- develop indicators on violence that could be accurately compared not only among the 47 member states of the Council of Europe but also globally;
- promote access to information, advocacy, independent complaints mechanisms;
- enhance professionals' knowledge of children's rights

EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



Building upon the success of 2009, the 'For Diversity. Against Discrimination.' campaign will organise a number of Diversity Days throughout the EU during 2010.

To mark each Diversity Day, a high-profile event targeting the general public and media will be hosted to throw the spotlight on issues of equality and diversity, provide information on anti-discrimination law, show what Europe is doing to protect its inhabitants and encourage people to challenge their own attitudes and prejudices.

Diversity Days will begin with an event in Budapest, Hungary in late spring. Other events will take place in autumn 2010.

More information on Diversity Days available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fdad/cms/stopdiscrimination/activities/diversity_days.html?langid=en

COMPETITIONS



Essay and Photography Competitions: Our rights, Our freedoms

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Council of Europe and ELSA International (the European Law Students' Association) are inviting law students in Europe to join this competition.

They can either submit an essay, assessing achievements and shortcomings of the Strasbourg legal system, or a photo reportage showing the Human Rights Convention's impact on European citizens' day-to-day lives.

The best three entries will be awarded with cash prizes and will be widely promoted and presented during the main commemorative ceremony marking the Convention's anniversary, next autumn in Strasbourg.

Deadline to submit entries is **30 June 2010**.

All details about the competitions and prizes can be found at:

<http://www.ourrightsourfreedoms.org>