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## Minority Fellowship Programme

### Pilot Arabic-speaking Minority Fellowship Programme - 2007

OHCHR is planning for the possible organization of a pilot Arabic speaking Minority Fellowship Programme for one month from 16 November to 15 December 2007 in Geneva.

### English Minority Fellowship Programme 2008

Applications forms for the English speaking OHCHR Minority Fellowship programme for 2008 will be appearing on the OHCHR web site shortly. Information at <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/fellowprog.htm>

## Staff at OHCHR

Dafina Hadri will be working in the minorities team of OHCHR as an intern/researcher for four months. Dafina's email address is [dhadri@ohchr.org](mailto:dhadri@ohchr.org)

## Independent Expert on minority issues

Ms. Gay McDougall, the Independent Expert on minority issues, is scheduled to undertake an official country visit to France from 19 to 28 September 2007.

For further information please contact:  
Graham Fox: [gfox@ohchr.org](mailto:gfox@ohchr.org)

## Atsuko Tanaka-Fox

We are sorry to announce that Atsuko Tanaka-Fox, the representative of the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), passed away on 2 August 2007. Many organizations and individuals are paying tribute to Atsuko's work for combating racial discrimination, especially discrimination on the basis of work and descent.

Graham Fox, her husband, received many donations which are contributing to the establishment of a scholarship in Atsuko's name to assist young Dalit girls to progress in their education and to work in advocacy against discrimination on behalf of their communities. The scholarship is to be administered by the National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights in India and IMADR.

You may wish to contact Mr. Graham Fox, husband of Atsuko, and secretariat member following the mandate of the Independent Expert on minority issues.

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**Future forum/platform/group/body on or for minorities**

This is to inform you that the Human Rights Council will meet in September and discuss the issue of any future forum or body on or for minorities. Such a discussion is provisionally scheduled for 12 and 18 or 19 September 2007.

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**Preparations for Durban Review 2009**

The organizational session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Durban Review Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) took place from Monday 27 to Friday 31 August 2007 in Geneva. The Preparatory Committee decided on the following dates: 21 April to 2 May 2008 - the first substantive session of the PrepCom, 6 to 17 October 2008 - the second substantive session of the PrepCom (both in Geneva), the first half of 2009 the Durban Review Conference (venue to be determined).

The objectives of the Durban Review Conference will be to:

1. Review progress and assess implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) by all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels.
2. Assess the effectiveness of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other relevant United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issue of racism, racial

discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to enhance them;

3. Promote the universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and proper consideration of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

4. Identify and share good practices achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

It was also decided that NGOs that can participate in the preparatory process of the Durban Review Conference as well as in the conference itself will be:

1. NGOs with ECOSOC status
2. NGOs that were accredited for the WCAR (pending individual objections from Member States which would be discussed during the PrepComs).
3. NGOs new to the process that have been approved after sending to the Secretariat application forms which shall shortly be available at [http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep\\_committee\\_durban/index.htm#docs](http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep_committee_durban/index.htm#docs).

For a full text of the decision regarding the participation of NGOs and all other decisions, see the draft report of the first PrepCom at [http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep\\_committee\\_durban/docs/prepcomdraft.doc](http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep_committee_durban/docs/prepcomdraft.doc).

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**Community-led training for Roma in Latin America**

OHCHR is supporting a community-led training for Romani representatives in Latin America on human rights capacity building, advocacy and regional networking. The workshop is planned to take place in September 2007 in

Argentina under the auspices of a Romani NGO AICRA (Identidad Cultural Romani de Argentina) and with the participation of a former OHCHR Minority Fellow from a Romani community as well as Romani representatives from Europe.

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### Treaty Bodies and country reviews

The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** held its 39<sup>th</sup> session (and celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year) from 23 July to 10 August 2007 in New York. It reviewed the reports of the: *Cook Islands, Belize, Brazil, Estonia, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, and Singapore.*

A number of references to issues concerning women belonging to minorities are contained in the concluding observations of: Hungary concerning Roma women; Brazil and Honduras concerning women of African descent; women living in different regions of Indonesia; women IDPs and refugees in Kenya, Muslim women in Singapore; and participation in public and political life of minority women in Norway. Recommendations regarding the collection of disaggregated data including on the grounds of ethnicity were contained in the concluding observations of Belize and Norway.

More information at  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/39sess.htm>

The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** is scheduled to hold its 40<sup>th</sup> session from 14 January to 1 February 2008. The following is a list of States parties reports provisionally scheduled to be examined during the next session: Saudi Arabia, Bolivia, Burundi, France, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco and Sweden.

More information at:  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/40sess.htm>

The **Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)** held its 71<sup>st</sup> session from 30 July to 17 August in Geneva. It reviewed the reports of the following States parties to ICERD: *Republic of Moldova, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Kyrgyzstan, Costa Rica, Mozambique and Democratic Republic of Congo.*

References to ethnicity or the situation of minorities are contained in all the concluding observations adopted by CERD.

More information at  
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds71.htm>

The next session of the **Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)** is scheduled to take place from 18 February to 7 March 2008 in Geneva. The Committee will consider the following reports during the session: Republic of Moldova, Italy, Republic of Fiji Islands, Belgium, Russian Federation, Dominican Republic, United States of America and Nicaragua. Under the Committee's review procedure, whereby it considers country situations in the absence of a State party report, the following are tentatively listed for review: *Gambia, Monaco, Bulgaria, United Arab Emirates and Panama.*

For more information please refer to:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds72.htm>

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