

## WELCOME TO CAK's 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY'S CELEBRATION AND THE SERIES OF EVENTS ON THE THEME: *Diaspora African Voices in Europe 2*.

**WEDNESDAY 02.05. 2012 at 18:30 – Panel of Experts:** *African Diaspora Women's Community and Political Mobilisation in Europe.*

This panel will be made up of current leaders of African women's diaspora organisations from different European countries (including Norway), academics conducting research on such organisations and policymakers. Panellists will reflect on their local experiences of mobilizing African and diaspora women, highlighting issues such as: the reasons why African women establish their own organisations, the types of barriers they face, the levels of success they have enjoyed, and the question of organisational sustainability in a time of austerity.

### Participants:



#### **Fatoumata Sidibé – Belgium**

Ms Sidibé is currently a Member of the Brussels-Capital Regional Parliament and chairperson of the Commission on Social Affairs of the Francophone Parliament in Brussels (ACCF). In 2005, she established the Belgian branch of the French migrant women's rights organisation *Ni Putes Ni Soumises*. Ms Sidibé is a published author and poet. [www.fatoumatasidibe.be](http://www.fatoumatasidibe.be)



#### **Virginia Wangare-Greiner – MAISHA, Germany**

Mrs Wangare-Greiner is a social activist and founder of Maisha, a self-help organization for African women in Germany which dates back to 1996. The aim of the organisation is to improve the situation of African women living in Germany, and to empower them to become a proud and active part of German society.

<http://www.maisha.org/aktuelles.htm>



#### **Naana Otoo-Oyortey – FORWARD, UK**

*Mrs Otoo-Oyortey is the Executive Director of the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD). FORWARD is an African Diaspora women's support and campaign organisation working in the UK and Africa on female genital mutilation, child marriage and obstetric fistula. Mrs Otoo-Oyortey has worked with governments and international NGOs on policies and programmes pertaining to gender based violence and sexual rights. She was awarded an MBE in 2009 for her work on women's human rights.* <http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/>



#### **Neneh Bojang – Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices, Norway**

Ms Bojang is the founder of IAC Norway. This organisation's aim is to promote gender equality and contribute to the improvement of the health, social, economic, political, status of African and minority women and children living in Norway through elimination of harmful traditional practices and the promotion of beneficial ones.



**Dr. Cassandra Ellerbe-Dück – Germany**

Dr Ellerbe-Dück holds a PhD in Comparative Cultural Studies/Anthropology from the University of Ghent, Belgium. Her doctoral thesis was on 'Black Diaspora in Europe, The Example of Afro-Germans: their political organisation and strategies of identification'. Her most recent research project focused on the grassroots activism and networking of Black women in Germany and Austria, and the formation of the Black European Women's Council (BEWC) in Vienna, Austria. <http://www.blackdiasporaandgermany.com/dr-cassandra-ellerbe-duumlck.html>



**Madeleine Kennedy-Macfoy – acting Assistant Director, Centre for Gender Research, University of Oslo.**

Dr Kennedy-Macfoy holds an MSc in Gender and Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and has worked in the field of African women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Her PhD in Sociology from Goldsmiths, University of London, was a study of citizenship amongst young people living and attending school in marginalised parts of suburban Paris and inner-city London. Her post-doctoral research at the Centre for Gender Research, University of Oslo, was on minority and African women's organisations in different European countries.

**FREE ADMISSION**

***NB! See the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary's programme on: [www.cak.no](http://www.cak.no)***

**Venue: Centre for African Culture – CAK Address: Pilestredet 75C Oslo – Telephone: 21396106**

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