



## CONNECTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

A Network, a Voice, of BME people in the UK

# The CfD Email bulletin

### BME Voluntary Sector Mapping Exercise

*Be A Part of this Remarkable Exercise!!*

Currently, CfD is undertaking research to map BME voluntary sector groups, organisations and individuals across the UK that are involved in international development. To download the questionnaire, please go to :[www.cfdnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk) or contact our office to request for hard copy .



**Any events to be publicized or information to**

### ScreenStation Productions: Film footage & Distributions

For information and further resources on The Sudan, life and experiences of young people in war-torn Sierra Leone, Bi Kidude the living legend from the East African spice Island-Zanzibar, you have found your ideal source of interesting material in ScreenStation Productions. Contact them for these readily available DVDs:

1) *Just Peace*: A film on Sudan; 2) *Reel Lives Sierra Leone*: An interactive DVD for creative primary teachers and 3) *As Old As My Tongue*: Filmed in Zanzibar featuring soundtrack by producer Rita Ray. For more go to: [www.screenstation.net](http://www.screenstation.net) or email: [info@screenstation.net](mailto:info@screenstation.net). Tel: 0207 252 6800.

### Guest News

**Bedford International Women's Forum**: "Ourselves As Women". Next meeting is on 9th December 2005. Call: 01234 350459 for more details.

### Bedford Race Equality Council

For more information about on-going support and guidance, email: [glenis1@fsmail.net](mailto:glenis1@fsmail.net) or [shaminder@fsmail.net](mailto:shaminder@fsmail.net). Tel: 01234 350459.

### The World Trade Organization (WTO) in the Run-up to Hong Kong December 2005

The next WTO Ministerial will shortly be held in Hong Kong. The Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the Make Poverty History coalition have embarked on an *e-action* campaign to voice concern about desperate need for delivery on trade agreements that will promote Trade Justice at the WTO and the world. They have been emailing Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. *And they say that it is not yet late for 'you and me' to add your voice to theirs.*)



To find out more or view the : [Open Letter Trade Justice Movement by the Rt.Hon Alan Johnson, the Secretary of State](#), visit the TUC website, [www.tuc.org.uk/international](http://www.tuc.org.uk/international) or call TUC Congress House on 0207 636 4030.

Other interesting documents include:

International Matters, Nov 2005 ( Issue 43) 30/11/05

Euro-Med Trade Union Forum, 30/11/05 etc.



## Opportunity Africa

---

### **What is it?**

Opportunity Africa (OA) is one of the African Foundation for Development's (AFFORD) projects. Started in September 2004, it provides a gateway to Africa-related/ international development careers, training & education for young people of African descent in the UK Diaspora. It also aims to enhance their skills base and job preparedness, making it easier for them to move into full-time employment in this sector. The project is in partnership with Learning & Skills Council (LSC), London Central.

### **Objectives:**

The main objectives of the project are:

- To increase young Africans' understanding of their career options;
  - To facilitate internship and volunteering opportunities with African and other organisations;
  - To build the capacity amongst UK-based African community organisations so that these can provide effective careers information and signposting to young members of their communities;
- To build links between institutionally-based careers advisors and international African developmental careers advisory sources

### **Target Group:**

Young people - 16 to 25/30 year-olds - of African\* descent living/working in London.

*\* We use the term African widely to mean those that trace their roots back to the African continent, including African-Caribbeans, African-Americans, Afro-Brazilians, etc.*

### **Events and Activities:**

#### **Careers Seminars**

Since its inception, the project has facilitated several Careers Seminars, which provide detailed guidance on careers and educational aspirations, advice on effective job hunting, making job applications and job interview techniques, amongst others. The seminars are conducted by a professional careers advisor.

#### **One-to-One Career Sessions**

Following each careers seminar, one-to-one career information sessions are held. They provide an opportunity for individual careers guidance - each young African discusses their specific needs on a one-to-one basis with the professional careers counsellor. This helps to shape their individual career aspirations and destiny.

111 young Africans participated on the programme in its pilot phase

#### **Internship & Placement Opportunities:**

After attending the careers seminars and ensuing one-to-one sessions, the young Africans make concrete decisions about their individual career/educational plans. Some decide that they wish to enter the world of work, but often lack practical work experience, therefore excluding them from the labour market.

In this respect, Opportunity Africa secures internship, volunteer and work opportunities for these young people in companies/organisations that fit within their chosen job sectors. We have secured internships with various organisations in Africa, including the Student Youth Travel Organisation (Ghana), the United Nations (Senegal), the World Bank (Angola), CHF (Ethiopia), Student Partnerships Worldwide (Uganda) and VSO (London). This route will enable them gain the necessary work experience required by most employers. Other young participants on the programme have found jobs with Southwark Council, Africa Recruit, the Commonwealth Foundation (London) and the Gaia Foundation (London – working with Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wangari Mathaai), to mention a few.

**For further Information Contact:**

Christine Matambo, Youth Programme Officer, AFFORD on: 020 7587 3904 / 3900 or  
E-mail: [Christine@afford-uk.org](mailto:Christine@afford-uk.org) OR [opportunityafrica@afford-uk.org](mailto:opportunityafrica@afford-uk.org)

*Exciting Events: Only Miss When You Really Must!*

**African Christmas Evening Comes to Edinburgh**

An action packed event on Friday 9th December provides the opportunity for likeminded people to get together to celebrate the richness, character, vibrancy and spirit of a world /continent just a 'flight away.'

**Venue:** St George's West, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

**When:** Friday 09 Dec 2005

*Tickets are selling at £15:00*

To join the feast and enjoy fine African cuisine e.g. ugali, chappatis, katchumbari salad etc, please contact Mara on 07786354 712 or email: [maramenzies@gmail.com](mailto:maramenzies@gmail.com)

**Meet Grassroots Entrepreneurs, Swiss Jewellers Organisation (of Sierra Leone)  
by AFFORD.**

It will be your chance to learn about business opportunities for the African Diaspora and find out more about planning exciting new business ventures that could involve you. Perhaps you could also help in rebuilding the war-torn economy of Sierra Leone. But above all, you will meet influential people like *Osman Conteh (Atarty)* & *Jabati Wai* from whom you will hear how grassroots entrepreneurs from the streets of Freetown creating opportunities & jobs for themselves and young Sierra Leoneans. Surely, Is there a good reason to miss such an event?

**When:** Friday 09 December 2005

**Venue:** AFFORD Offices, 31-33 Bondway, Vauxhall, London SW8 1SJ.

Time: 6:30pm to 09:30pm

**R.S.V.P:** Places are limited, to book please contact Christine Matambo on: 0207 587 3900 or email: [Christine@afford-uk.org](mailto:Christine@afford-uk.org).

**In the meantime, stay well and stay in contact.**

**Courtesy of CfD  
Staff & Board  
November**