

Please find the monthly E-newsletter of the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA), featuring its latest activities and news.

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AWEPA News

E-Newsletter | June 2015

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A solidarity trip in Somalia: Meetings on the inclusion of women and minorities in politics



A delegation of twelve persons, among which parliamentarians, members of civil and youth organisations and officials from the Somali Ministry of Gender and Human Rights, participated in a Solidarity trip to Adado, in the central Galguduud region of Somalia, on 6 June 2015. The mission, jointly organised by AWEPA and the Ministry of Gender and Human Rights in the framework of the [“Supporting Legislative Institutions in Somalia”](#) Programme, aimed at casting light on the inclusion of

women in politics, both in the capital as well as in the regions, and urging the local influential groups to consider their position on the subject.

[Read the article](#)

Upcoming Activities

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 23-24 June | A national workshop on child marriage laws to take place in Zambia |
| 29 June | ECOWAS Parliament - AWEPA Strategic Planning Meetings_ |
| 8-9 October | AWEPA International Parliamentary Seminar in the Belgian Senate |
| Dates to be confirmed | Induction Training for the National Assembly in Benin |

Recent Activities

[#DAC2015: Towards bringing an end to child marriage in Africa](#)



16 June 2015 – AWEPA welcomed the annual [Day of the African Child](#) (DAC), and this year’s theme: “Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriage in Africa.” As part of its [programme against FGM/C](#), AWEPA has implemented a number of activities to contribute to efforts to end child marriage and aims to continue this work into the future.

[Read more](#)

[FGM/C briefing for Members of the Kenya National Assembly](#)



[EALA members visit cross-border communities](#)



23-30 May. A select group of [East African Legislative Assembly \(EALA\)](#) members

12 June 2015. Nairobi, Kenya – Following the launch of the [Obligation to Protect \(O2P\) Programme: Agents of Change Unite against FGM/C](#), a one-day seminar briefed parliamentarians about the situation of [Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting](#) in Kenya and the gaps in the country's 2011 anti-FGM/C law. The seminar, organised jointly by AWEPA, Plan International Kenya and the Kenya National Assembly (KNA), called on parliamentarians from the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee; Health Affairs Committee and Labour and Social Welfare Committee to commit to getting justice for violated girls and women and step up the fight against FGM/C.

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[Lisez l'article](#)

[Hon. Bodil Ceballos: More must be done to empower women](#)



June 2015. Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- As 2015 marks the [African Union Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Agenda](#)

took part in a field assessment as they visited border points between Tanzania and Kenya. The delegation met with representatives of East African Community ministries, government officials, customs officers and agents, traders, and border communities and their leaders. The members solicited experience and input from stakeholders so as to enable EALA to form clear regional policies and legislation on the [EAC](#) Customs Union and the EAC Common Market.

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[FGM/C: Targeting local communities in Senegal](#)



14-15 June. Sédhiou, Senegal – As part of its [FGM/C programme](#), AWEPA facilitated the organisation of a two-day workshop designed to train and raise awareness among focal persons in local communities in Senegal. The workshop aimed to inform participants (local focal points for FGM/C, appointed by regional Governors) of the harmful impact that FGM/C can have on the lives of individuals and communities as

2063, AWEPA asked the Chair of the AWEPA Section in the European Parliament, Hon. Bodil Ceballos to give her insights on the progress achieved over the past years towards empowering women and fostering development, as well as her vision and ideas for the future. Read the article with her interesting answers.

[Read more](#)

a whole. AWEPA was also featured in a new **[28toomany.org Report](#)** from Senegal for organisations who work towards improving the understanding of FGM/C and ending the practice.

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[Lisez l'article](#)

[Irish AWEPA Section holds 2nd Annual General Meeting](#)



10 June 2015. Dublin, Ireland - The **[Irish AWEPA Section](#)** held its second Annual General Meeting in the Irish Parliament, where AWEPA's CAO Theo Kralt was the guest speaker and gave a presentation on the role of core funding in AWEPA's recent development. During the meeting, Members of the Irish Section called for more democratic contact between European AWEPA members and African parliamentarians, as well as for more campaigning and activist traditions.

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[Austria Section meets on social inclusion and disability](#)



9 June 2015. Vienna, Austria - The **[AWEPA Austria Section](#)** and **[NordSüdDialog](#)** held a forum in the Austrian Parliament on "Social inclusion of people with disabilities". The forum placed a special focus on Africa and the developing world, and brought together MPs, experts in the field, representatives of disability organisations, the **[Austrian Development Agency \(ADA\)](#)** and AWEPA representatives, among others. Conclusions were drawn regarding ways in which Austrian parliamentarians can work to support social inclusion.

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