

# Building Democracy in Eritrea Conference

Wednesday 24 - Thursday 25 April, 2019

Senate House  
University of London

**ERITREA**  
**FOCUS**  
Exposing Human Rights Abuses in Eritrea



INSTITUTE OF  
COMMONWEALTH  
STUDIES @70

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## **Building Democracy in Eritrea**

The recent rapprochement between Eritrea and Ethiopia could mark a new era in relations in the Horn of Africa. However, Eritrea remains at a crossroads. The peace agreement between the two countries has led to many Eritreans asking why the road to democracy is still blocked. Demands for change and long overdue reforms are heard on the streets of Eritrea, as well as throughout the diaspora living abroad. Building Democracy in Eritrea brings together Eritreans, academics and policy experts to discuss Eritrea's future. The conference will be forward looking; aiming to carve a way out of the difficulties in which Eritreans find themselves. Drawing on the best and the brightest, it will examine all aspects of life – from law to the economy – as a means of imagining the country after the dictatorship has ended.



# Programme

DAY ONE	
09:00-09:30	<b>REGISTRATION TEA &amp; COFFEE</b>
09:30-09:45	<b>Chair's Welcome</b> Habte Hagos, Founding Member and Chair of Eritrea Focus
09:45-09:50	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Thangam Debbonaire MP, Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Eritrea
09:50-10:20	<b>Keynote: Winning Independence and Governing a State: Missed Opportunities and Lessons Learned</b> Message from Haile Menkerios, Paulos Tesfagiorgios
10:20-10:50	<b>Discussion and Q &amp; A: Winning Independence and Governing a State: Missed Opportunities and Lessons Learned</b>
10:50-11:05	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11:05-11:45	<b>Keynote: The Rapprochement Between Ethiopia and Eritrea</b> Prof Kjetil Tronvoll, Dan Connell
11:45-12:20	<b>Discussion and Q&amp;A: The Rapprochement between Ethiopia and Eritrea</b>
12:20-13:20	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
13:20-14:00	<b>Keynote: The Rule of Law and Administration of Justice</b> Dr Bereket Habte Selassie, Dr Mark Ellis
14:00-14:35	<b>Breakout Session: The Rule of Law and Administration of Justice</b> Paulos Tesfagiorgios, Daniel Makonnen
14:35-14:55	<b>Breakout Summary: The Rule of Law and Administration of Justice</b>
14:55-15:25	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
15:25-16:05	<b>Keynote: The National Economy in an Integrating Region</b> Dr David Styan, Dr Tesfamariam Mehari
16:05-16:40	<b>Breakout Session: The National Economy in an Integrating Region</b> Dr Mehbrahtu Ateweberhan, Prof Gaim Kibreab
16:40-17:15	<b>Breakout Summary: The National Economy in an Integrating Region</b>
17:15	<b>Day One Concluding Remarks</b> Habte Hagos
20:00	<b>DINNER</b>



**DAY TWO**

09:00-09:30	<b>REGISTRATION TEA &amp; COFFEE</b>
09:30-09:55	<b>Keynote: Eritrean Diaspora Working Together</b> Prof Araya Debessay, Dr Asia Abdulkadir
09:55-10:40	<b>Breakout Session: Eritrean Diaspora Working Together</b> Selam Kidane, Dr Berhane Asmelash
10:40-11:00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11:00-11:30	<b>Breakout Summary: Eritrean Diaspora Working Together</b>
11:30-12:10	<b>Keynote: The Empowerment of Women and Youth</b> Abeba Tesfagiorgios, Vanessa Tsehay
12:10-12:45	<b>Discussion and Q&amp;A: The Empowerment of Women and Youth</b> Dr Sarah Ogbay, Feruz Werede
12:45-14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK – GROUP PHOTO</b>
14:00-14:40	<b>Keynote: The Media, Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information</b> Abraham Zere, Martin Plaut
14:40-15:20	<b>Discussion and Q&amp;A: The Media, Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information</b>
15:20-15:40	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
15:40-16:20	<b>Keynote: Engaging with International Democracies</b> John Stauffer, Prof Mirjam van Reisen, Habte Hagos
16:20-17:00	<b>Panel Discussion: Engaging with International Democracies</b> John Stauffer, Prof Mirjam van Reisen, Habte Hagos, Patrick Orr
17:00	<b>Concluding Remarks</b> Martin Plaut
17:30	<b>End of Conference Reception at Senate House</b>