
Ethiopians in London celebrate Women's Day

9th March 2015



The Embassy of Ethiopia in London, in partnership with the Tigray Women's Association and the Ethiopian Somali Women's Association as well as members of the Ethiopian community in the UK colourfully marked the International Women Day on Sunday 8th March at the Embassy under the theme **"Make it Happen"**.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Demeke Atnafu, Minister Counsellor for Diaspora Affairs at the Embassy emphasized that the active participation of women was making significant contribution in Ethiopia's development endeavour. Ethiopia is committed to achieving gender parity in the economic, social and political fields, Mr Atnafu said, and stated the current 30% representation of women in parliament was expected to increase to 40% in the near future.



(l-r) Mr Demeke Atnafu, W/ro. Sofia Abdulkadir and W/ro. Ifrah Shiek addressing the attendees

W/ro. Sofia Abdulkadir, Chairperson of the Tigray Women Association on her part said that past experience and history showed that lasting peace, development and prosperity of nations was guaranteed only if women are equal participants and beneficiaries of the existing opportunities. She stressed that women organizations and associations play a pivotal role in promoting equal rights for women and called on members to strengthen their efforts.

W/ro. Ifrah Shiek, Chairperson of the Ethiopian Somali Women's Association welcomed participants to the celebration and gave a brief historical overview of women's struggle for equality internationally. She added that African women are still suffering from harmful social and traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation which should be done away with. She also lamented the continued suffering of women as a result of cross border human trafficking. She urged collective efforts to tackle these harmful practices.

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For further information, please contact the Press Office on 020 7838 3883/0; info@ethioembassy.org.uk

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