



"Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses."

(The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, Article 16 (2))

**ERADICATE FORCED AND EARLY MARRIAGES
2011 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 26, 27, 28 2011**

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Benefit Dinner and Performances at Radisson Hotel

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Registration, Opening Plenary Remarks, Panels, Discussions

All sessions on this day will be held at Doheny Intellectual Commons

Friday, October 28, 2011

Registration, Panels, and Discussions

All sessions on this day will be held at Doheny Intellectual Commons

Presented by



**Yellitaare, African Empowerment and the Ministry of Senegalese Living
abroad**



**Ministry of Senegalese
Living Abroad**

Above all, forced and early marriages deprive their victims of their rights.

Aware of this disturbing situation, authorities have put in place a programmatic framework promoting the abandonment of forced and early marriages, which has been achieved through the creation of documents on national strategies and plans of action. Many NGOs and Associations of Civil Society Organizations have implemented interventions promoting the eradication of such practice in reference to this strategy. However, one cannot overlook the fact that each intervention was conducted with its own individual approach, program and field of action, and without any mutual coordination, which has made it difficult to evaluate results in this sphere.

In order to face these challenges and work toward the complete eradication of early and forced marriages before 2020, Yellitaare, African Empowerment and a Group of USC faculty members are organizing an international congress in Los Angeles (October 26th , 27th & 28th) which will address these issues.

The main goal of the international conference is to develop international exchanges and collaborations between its participants – government institutions, policymakers and legislators, NGO's representatives, journalists and other individuals working in the media, victims, health specialists, practitioners, African First Ladies, academic researchers.

The congress specific goals are defined and articulated according to three essential points:

- ◆ Examine the methods for establishing the Global movement of NGOs and organizations involved in forced marriages in order to revitalize and enhance the effectiveness of their interventions through a collaborative synergy.
- ◆ Exchange of best practices, lessons learned at the national and international levels and to establish a code of good practices for the international community of organizations intervening on the issue of early and forced marriages.
- ◆ Develop and reinforce alliances between NGOs and multilateral agencies involved in the same regions for greater synergy of actions and efficient use of available resources.

Co-Organizers: Yellitaare/African Empowerment, the UCLA Women's health and empowerment center, USC French and Italian Department

Honorary President: Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal

Co-presidents of the Congress:

Professor Awa Marie Colle Seck, former Senegalese Health Minister, former Director at the Joint Nations

Program for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Executive Director of the UNITED NATIONS Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM)

Professor Ndioro Ndiaye, former Minister for Social Development of Senegal, former Deputy-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Vice-president: Professor Doe Mayer, Mary Pickford Chair at USC's School of Cinematic Arts

Secretary: Dr Paula Tavrow, Director of UCLA's Bixby Program in Population and Reproductive Health

Scientific Committee: Ndioro Ndiaye, Dr Paula Tavrow, UCLA, Dr Aoua B L Tall, Dr Andrew Apter UCLA, Chrystal Sandra, Ph.D, USC, Donald Miller, Ph.D, USC, Patrick James, Ph.D, USC, Baba Goumbala, International AIDS Alliance, Aboubacry Mbodji, Advisor Senegalese Minister of Human Rights, Dr Claudine Michelle UCSB,USC, Mrs Ngone Ndoye, Minister of Senegalese Living Abroad, Dr Panivong Norindr, USC

Keynote Speaker



Professor Souleymane Mboup is distinguished for his important contributions to the analysis and control of HIV/AIDS in West Africa, particularly Senegal. He was instrumental in the initial identification of HIV-2 and also contributed to the finding that this virus is less virulent and less transmissible than HIV-1.

Professor Mboup is a board member of several international scientific associations working in the field of HIV/AIDS and has developed collaborations and partnerships with well-known research institutions and organizations like Harvard University, l'INSERM in France, Tours and Limoges University, and the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. He has participated in many research activities and contributed to the publication of hundreds of scientific articles and books among which is "AIDS in Africa".

Plenary Speaker



Ms. Doe Mayer is an expert in creative media for social change and educational documentaries. She holds the Mary Pickford Chair at USC's School of Cinematic Arts where she teaches documentary and fiction filmmaking. She holds a joint appointment with the Annenberg School for Communication where her work is centered on the practical application of communication campaign strategies and designs for social issue and health-defined organizations. Professor Mayer has been working in film and television for the past 25 years and has produced directed and provided technical support for hundreds of productions in the United States and numerous developing countries. Much of this programming has been in the areas of family planning, basic education, health and nutrition promotion, HIV/AIDS prevention, population, and women's issues. She has recently completed a project called Women Connect!, an initiative of the Pacific Institute for Women's Health which is funded through the Annenberg Center for Communication at USC and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The project seeks to strengthen African women NGOs to use communication strategies in media and technology to improve women's health and well-being.

Co-presidents



Professor Awa Marie Coll-Seck is Executive Director of the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership, a global partnership founded in 1998 by WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank with the goal of halving the world's malaria burden by 2010. Prior to this appointment, Awa Marie Coll-Seck was Minister of Health of the Republic of Senegal (2001-2003) where she initiated far-reaching reform of the health sector in Senegal and engaged a wide range of government, civil society and private sector partners in the implementation and expansion of public health programs. She mobilized strong political commitment within her country for health to be rightly recognized as key to economic and social development, and she successfully mobilized financial resources both domestically and from bilateral and multilateral international donors. Awa Marie Coll-Seck is the author of over 150 scientific publications and communications on diverse subjects -including malaria, measles, meningitis, tetanus, typhoid, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and cardiovascular diseases.



Professor Ndiaye Ndioro former Head of the International Organization for Migration from Senegal (IOM); she is currently the President of the Alliance for Migration, Leadership and Development (AML), an NGO she founded after serving two terms as the Deputy Director General at IOM. She served as Minister for Gender and Family Affairs and also Minister for Social Development. She coordinated humanitarian activities during the crisis between Senegal and Mauritania in 1989. She also devised and implemented practical solutions to assist both Senegalese and Mauritanian migrants displaced by the conflict.

Expected Speakers



Ms. Rama Yade is the French ambassador to UNESCO since December 2010. A graduate of the "Institut d'Etudes politiques de Paris", she became administrator of the Senate in 2002, in succession to the Social Affairs committee, the parliamentary channel "Public Sénat" where she was deputy director of programs , communication director and then administrator appointed to the local authorities of the Senate. Meanwhile, she became involved in community life, and became vice-president of the Club XXI century. In 2006, she became national secretary of the UMP in charge of the "Francophonie". Rama Yade entered the government at 30 years old as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Human Rights before being responsible for Sports. Member of the "Party Radical" and of the Political Bureau of the UMP, she is the president of the municipal group UMP / Nouveau Centre in Colombes (Hauts-de-Seine) since 2008 and Ile-de-France Regional Councilor since 2010. Rama Yade is the author of three books, Blacks in France (Calmann-Levy), The Human Rights explained to the children of 7-77 years (threshold) and a letter to the youth published in the October 2010 edition Grasset.



Ms. Michelle Bachelet is the head of UN Women, the newly created UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Ms. Bachelet most recently served as President of Chile from 2006 to 2010. A long-time champion of women's rights, she has advocated for gender equality and women's empowerment throughout her career. One of her major successes was her decision to save billions of dollars in revenues to spend on pension reform, which guaranteed a program of social protections for women and children, despite the financial crisis. This included tripling the number of free early child care centers for low-income families and the completion of some 3,500 child-care centers around the country. Ms. Bachelet also held ministerial portfolios in the Chilean Government as Minister of Defense and Minister of Health. As Defense Minister, Ms. Bachelet introduced gender policies intended to improve the conditions of women in the military and police forces. As Minister of Health, she implemented health-care reform, improving attention to primary care facilities with the aim of ensuring better and faster health-care response for families. Ms. Bachelet holds a medical degree. She also studied military strategy at Chile's National Academy of Strategy and Policy and at the Inter-American Defense College in the United States.

Ms. Aicha Bah Diallo is Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Guinea and Advisor/en charge of the Mission to the Director General of UNESCO for Africa. From 1996 to 2005, as a senior leader of UNESCO, she worked to lower the barriers to education for disadvantaged groups. Bah Diallo served as Guinea's Minister of Education for seven years (1989-1996), implementing a highly successful education reform program which also supported the empowerment of women and girls. Bah Diallo was a panelist at the World Conference on Women held in Kenya (1985) and in China (1995). She also played a guiding role in the launching of the Forum for African Women Educationalists and the Association for strengthening Higher Education for Women in Africa.



Co-organizers

Bocoum Moussa, president and founder of Yellitaare is a filmmaker and social entrepreneur with an experience in the field of human rights and HIV / AIDS in Africa. He worked for several NGOs. Bocoume holds a Masters in French / Film at the University of Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (Senegal). He is currently a PhD candidate in African cinema at the University of Southern California.

PROGRAM

✓ **Wednesday, October 26, 2011**

- ***Opening Fundraiser Gala evening*** animated by Baaba Maal (Senegalese singer and artist), and the presence of notable First Ladies of Africa and Hollywood celebrities.
- ***Invited artists:*** Akon (Senegalese-American world renown singer), Coumba Gawlo Seck (Senegalese praised singer and songwriter), Kalidou Kasse (Artist-Painter), and Les Frères Guissé.

✓ **Thursday, October 27, 2011**

- ***Opening of the congress*** by Professor Doe Mayer, Mary Pickford Chair at USC's School of Cinematic Arts
- ***Plenary Sessions 1, 2, 3***

- ✚ Session 1: Overview of the practice of forced and early marriage worldwide
 - Religion and forced marriages
 - Understanding forced and early marriages
 - Women's rights activists and the practice of forced and early marriage
 - Forced Marriage and Migration
- ✚ Session 2: Government responses to forced and early marriages;
 - Description of programs and actions implemented by the States
 - The role of policy in responding to Forced and Early marriages
- ✚ Session 3: Actions of NGOs and Associations: Exchange of good practices at national and international levels.

✓ **Friday, October 28, 2011**

- ***Plenary Sessions 4, 5 and Break-out***

- ✚ Session 4: International and sub-regional initiatives against forced marriages:
Lessons learned and challenges ahead.
- ✚ Session 5: Towards a code of Good practices for NGO's responding to forced marriages.
- ✚ Break-out: Building a collaborative reference framework for analysis and action

NB: This is only a provisional schedule.

REGISTRATION

Registration deadline is September 23rd 2011: \$550

Late registration: October 10th 2011: \$600

The registration may be done with credit card payment at www.yellitaare.org

The fee concludes Congress Materials, Refreshments, Luncheon and Off-site Parking.

CONGRESS LOCATIONS

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Benefit Dinner and Performances:

Radisson Hotel: Los Angeles Midtown at USC.

3540 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90007

Thursday, October 27 and Friday, October 28, 2011

DOHENEY INTELLECTUAL COMMONS, located at Doheny Memorial Library at the University of Southern California, Center of campus, 3550 Trousdale Parkway, Entrance 3, Figueroa St. and McCarthy Way, LA University Park Campus, Los Angeles CA 90089-0185
Registration, Opening Plenary Remarks, Panels, Discussions All sessions on both days will be held there.

For information on parking and directions please visit our web site:

www.yellitaare.org