



CHANGING THE DISCOURSE:

The positive face of migration

ROUNDTABLE

UNESCO HQ, Room IV
14 December 2015
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Opening: **Nada Al-Nashif**
Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences

Panelists: **Metin Arditi**
UNESCO Special Envoy for Intercultural Dialogue
Lucienne Redercher
Deputy Mayor of Nancy and ECCAR Vice-President
Priya Deshingkar
Research Director, Migrating out of Poverty, Research Programme
Consortium, University of Sussex
Assefaw Bariagaber
Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University
Plantu
Cartoonist at *Le Monde*

Background

Promoting respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law without discrimination of any kind are cornerstones of UNESCO's action. This commitment enshrined in the Organization's constitution needs to be reaffirmed every day in all its activities and programmes.

International Days, such as the Human Rights Day on 10 December and the International Migrants' Day on 18 December, are important milestones in this respect, as they provide the opportunity to place under the spotlight complex challenges, successes, failures and shortcomings and by doing so contribute to a broader awareness about actions that need to be undertaken.

At the current juncture one topic emerges as the compelling theme for this year's commemorative events: migrants' inclusion. Attaining the goals set for all migrants, international and national, by the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relies to a great extent on the success of efforts to promote respect for diversity and fight all forms of

discrimination. Advances in securing for migrants an adequate standard of living, promoting unhindered access to quality education, as well as progress in the realization of other basic human rights will require tackling persistent and newly emerging stereotypes and prejudices. The most powerful way to achieve this is by providing data and arguments against such claims. Migration when orderly, safe and underpinned by planned and well-managed policies that are entrenched in human rights principles and standards, generates benefits that overshadow its challenges. Migrants, if assisted to fulfil their potential, can contribute significantly to cultural, economic, political and social life in host societies.

This realization and consequent approach will provide the background for the roundtable and concert organized by UNESCO this year. These events feed into the yearlong campaign launched by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Day 2015 under the slogan “Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always.”. Its aim is to promote and raise awareness of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on their 50th anniversary.

The roundtable

UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences will offer some insights and perspectives on the role of the Organization and the UN in general in tackling exclusion and on opportunities for broader alliances at the current global juncture. This part will present the broader picture in which the ensuing debate will be situated.

Focusing on specific areas of UNESCO’s mandate, the invited speakers will shed light onto the grassroots realities, allowing thus for a better understanding of the magnitude, complexity and specificities of the issues under consideration. Combined with a focus on lessons learned and good practices, the interventions will also point to possible priorities for action.

Employing creativity and culture for stimulating a positive attitude to migration and migrants and also to build bridges for dialogue and interaction, re-inventing cities as spaces of inclusion, highlighting the multiple forms of gender based discrimination against female migrants, whether international or internal, understanding current challenges and the potential of migration in Africa and exploring the positive role of media in challenging stereotypes are the themes that will drive the debate.

Panelists’ biographies

Metin Ardit

Born in Ankara in 1945, Metin Ardit is a writer, businessman and music lover. He left Turkey at the age of seven when he was admitted into boarding school in Lausanne. After studying Physics and then Nuclear Engineering at the Polytechnic School of Lausanne, he went on to study Business Management at Stanford University in the United States. Upon returning to Geneva, he founded a real estate investment company and later, in 1988, he created the Ardit Foundation that provided financial support to creative students in Geneva and Lausanne. In the same spirit, he became in 1996 the president of the Foundation of the l’Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in order to encourage young talents. Metin Ardit created in 2009 the Foundation ‘Instruments for Peace’, with the support of the Palestinian poet Elias Sanbar. The Foundation works to promote musical education for Israeli and Palestinian Youth. He is also involved in numerous cultural institutions of the city of Geneva. He is a prolific author of essays and novels. He has published more than ten books and has received numerous literacy prizes, including Prix Alberto-

Benveniste, Prix de l'Office Central des Bibliothèques and Prix des Auditeurs de la Radio Suisse Romande.

Metin Ardit served as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador from December 2012 to June 2014. He has undertaken a number of peace and development projects in this capacity. Goodwill Ambassador Ardit also initiated a series of public conferences at the University of Geneva under the title "Cultural Heritage of Humanity: an Instrument for Peace." The purpose of these conferences has been to raise public awareness of the vital role of culture in peace-building and the need to preserve heritage in times of conflict. In June 2014, Metin Ardit was designated as a UNESCO Special Envoy for Intercultural Dialogue.

Lucienne Redercher

Lucienne Redercher is a Deputy Mayor for Culture, Integration and Human Rights in Nancy and assistant to the Mayor of Nancy. In 2013, she was elected as Vice President of European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) for four years. She is committed to integration, to the fight against discrimination, racism and any kind of exclusion. This commitment, as well as her membership in numerous associations engaged, amongst others, in international solidarity, helps her to bring her expertise and experience into her work for ECCAR. The professor for literature is also in charge of urban planning and acts as a contact person for about 170 local associations. In addition, Lucienne Redercher is a member of MoDem (Mouvement Démocrate de Meurthe-et-Moselle), a democratic movement in the Meurthe-et-Moselle department. In 2012 and 2013, she was also a delegate for "Collectif LGBT Lorraine", a collective body of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organizations founded in 2003.

Priya Deshingkar

Dr Priya Deshingkar is Research Director of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Consortium and Senior Research Fellow in the School of Global Studies. Her research focuses on internal migration and poverty with a focus on precarious occupations, debt-migration, labor rights and agency. She holds a PhD from the Institute of Development Studies and has twenty years of experience of designing and supervising multidisciplinary, mixed methods research. Priya is an internationally recognized authority on internal migration and has played a key role in influencing the global policy discourse on internal migration and development. Her most recent book is *Circular Migration and Multilocational Livelihood Strategies in India* (co-edited with John Farrington, 2009). Until 2009, Dr Deshingkar was Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute.

Assefaw Bariagaber

Assefaw Bariagaber joined the School of Diplomacy and International Relations in fall 1999. He served as the founding chair of the faculty from 2006-2013. Before coming to Seton Hall University, Dr Bariagaber taught at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and was a Research Fellow in 1998-99 at the Center of International Studies, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University. His research interest includes peacekeeping and peacemaking in Africa, ethnic and cultural pluralism, and conflict and refugee movements in Africa. Dr Bariagaber is the author of a book entitled, *Conflict and the Refugee Experience: Flight, Exile, and Repatriation in the Horn of Africa*, published by Ashgate Press (UK) in 2006. He has published numerous articles on conflicts and refugees in such referred journals as the *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *International Migration*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, and *Journal of Third World Studies*. He has also written several papers for the UNHCR and UNA-USA on refugees and peacekeeping, respectively. Dr Bariagaber is a member of several professional associations, including African Studies Association, African Studies and Research Forum, Eritrean Studies Association, and Third World Studies Association. He currently serves as the Secretary of the Eritrean Studies Association and as the Associate Editor of *Eritrean Studies Review*.

Plantu

Born in Paris in 1951, Jean Plantureux or Plantu, studied drawing at Saint-Luc school, Bruxelles, in 1971. In 1972, he started to work for the newspaper Le Monde with his first drawing on the Vietnam War. In 1985, the publishing director of Le Monde, André Fontaine, decided that the drawings of Plantu be featured on the front page of the newspaper, intending to make it as "a French traditional way of political cartoons." This year marks the 43th year since Plantu has drawn for Le Monde. From 1980 to 1986, he collaborated with the newspaper Phosphore. Since 1991, he has published a page in L'Express on a weekly basis. His talent is recognized worldwide and has won numerous prizes. In 1991, he was awarded "Rare document Award" (Prix du document rare in French) at the Festival of Scoop d'Angers for having made the signatures of Yasser Arafat and Shimon Peres appear on the same drawing. In 2006 Plantu and Kofi Annan fulfilled their common goal to organize a large gathering of designers. This was the birth of the association Cartooning for Peace, of which he is the president.