



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Africa Centre Launched Campaign to Educate African Diaspora and Other Migrants on Voting in the Local and European Elections 2019!

The Africa Centre has launched its voter education and mobilization campaign to the Irish public today the 15th August 2018 at 11am in front of their offices at 9C Abbey Street Lower, Dublin 1 (opposite Abbey Street Luas Stop) for the upcoming 2019 Local and European Elections.

As the first African Diaspora led organisation in Ireland, the Africa Centre has been very vocal on issues related to discrimination and inequality towards people of African descent in Ireland. To address the lack of support from politicians on issues affecting the African Diaspora and other minorities, the Africa Centre is calling on all residents of Ireland who are eligible to participate in the upcoming elections to register and vote to make their voices heard through the ballot box to influence policy.

Of the population of Ireland, over 17% of its residents were born outside the country, this percentage represents 535,475 people as stated in the 2016 census figures. Of those residents, 70,000 are people of African descent. According to Mbemba Jabbi, Acting Director of the Africa Centre, "this is a very significant change in the population of Ireland and should be reflected in the political landscape by electing officials who will support migrants and migrant-led organisations in their fight against the discrimination and inequality they face daily".

According to the Chairperson of the Africa Centre Mr. Lassane Ouedraogo, "this is only the start of a rigorous education and mobilization effort throughout Ireland to spread awareness in migrant communities and to the Irish public of their constitutional rights and to facilitate voter registration and participation".

The Africa Centre is calling on all political parties to include migrants, refugees and ethnic minorities on their candidate lists and to provide support to these brave women and men who are ready to stand for the election. The Africa Centre emphasises the importance of ensuring they create a safe, free and non-discriminatory platform for their campaign to win seats. The Africa Centre has previously conducted research into political parties and their manifestos on membership for migrants in their parties before the citizenship referendum in 2004.

The Africa Centre will be carrying out voter education and mobilization exercises in several cities and towns across Ireland in the coming months and this will be communicated through our website www.africacentre.ie and social media platforms.

Ends.

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The Africa Centre is a charity (CHY 14980) that works to promote participation of the African diaspora in all aspect of life in Ireland. Voter education and mobilization is one of the work areas within the organisation's community participation programme.