

## Belfast to Celebrate African Caribbean Culture

**17 May 2010**

**Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND:** The Afro-Community Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI) will launch Africa Week celebrations this month, kindly funded and partnered by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Equality Commission.

Various festivities will start the third week of May and will embrace an eclectic mix of African and Caribbean culture – the arts, heritage, music, food, fashion and language.

The aim is to promote the diversity of African and Caribbean culture in the city and to promote integration, awareness, better understanding, good relations and cohesion between all communities in Northern Ireland.

The events begin with a screening of Cannes Film Festival Official Selection “Bamako” from Director Abderrahmane Sissako (Mali) with an interactive debate from 2:30 – 5:30 on Thursday May 20. The venue is Queen’s Film Theatre, 20 University Square.

On Friday May 28 at The Frames Complex, 2-14 Little Donegal Street, DJ Ola will be entertaining the audience with a selection of world African and Caribbean music from 8 pm to late.

The highlight of the celebrations will take place on Sunday May 30 at the Crescent Arts Centre, 2-4 University Road from 2:00 to 7:00 pm for the entire family. There will be an international banquet of food showcasing the various African and Caribbean regions, live music, fashion show, crafts, artwork, raffle and refreshments.

Dr Christopher Stange, Public Relations Officer of ACSONI and Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland welcomed the activities and community celebrations thanking all the management and partners for their contributions in organising the events. He said: “It is wonderful to bring communities together and share the diverse cultures we have in Northern Ireland as we work towards an inclusive and multicultural society for all.

For more information on the Afro-Community Support Organisation Northern Ireland please visit our website: [www.acsoni.org](http://www.acsoni.org).

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**Notes for Editor:** The Afro-Community Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI) was formed in July 2003 as an independent community-based organisation, because although the Afro-Community is one of the largest Minority Ethnic Communities in Northern Ireland (1126 people, 2001 Census, today is estimated in excess of 6,000, information on the life and experiences of African, Caribbean and other Afro-descendants in Northern Ireland was virtually non-existent.

ACSONI became a registered charity on the 17th of February 2004 and has formal representation on all forums and statutory panels in Northern Ireland to have a voice for African, Caribbean and Mixed Heritage Nationalities in Northern Ireland.

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