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# ETHIOPIA WINNET

ESFNA

July 2017

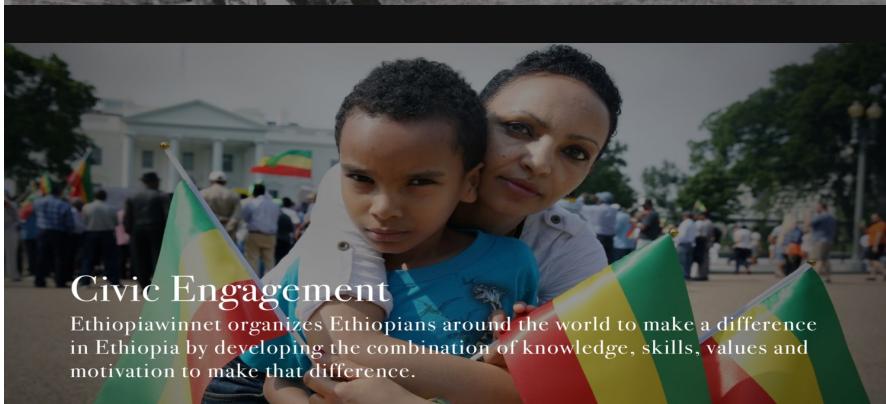
## The Mission

The mission of Ethiopiawinnet is to foster patriotism, civic engagement and institution building to empower Ethiopians in establishing an accountable democracy. To engage every Ethiopian in making a difference, Ethiopiawinnet invites you to learn more about our three pillars on our website.



### Patriotism

Ethiopiawinnet evokes patriotism through education of Ethiopian history.



### Civic Engagement

Ethiopiawinnet organizes Ethiopians around the world to make a difference in Ethiopia by developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference.



### Institution Building

Ethiopiawinnet is a hub for insightful discourse on solutions to complex problems facing institutions in Ethiopia.

*"We define Ethiopiawinnet as ownership and pride of the essentials of being Ethiopian. That means, the culture lived, the history accomplished the dictum and aspirations wanted."*

*Social responsibility for impact in Ethiopia is a shared value of Ethiopiawinnet."*

*Dr. Erku Yimer,  
Chair, Ethiopiawinnet*



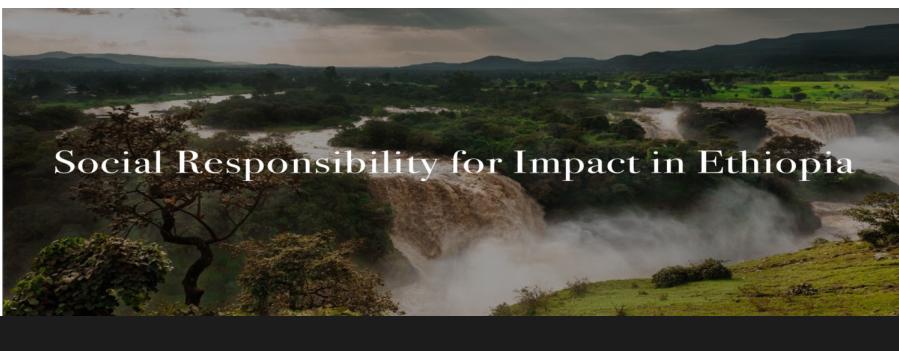
## Current Project

### 2017 Ethiopiawinnet Symposium

**Theme:** Transition and Development in a Dynamic and Inclusive Democratic Ethiopia

**Date:** August 12-13, 2017

**Venue:** Sheraton Silver Spring Hotel (See back)



## About Us

**Ethiopiawinnet Social Responsibility for Impact In Ethiopia** is a rights-based international civic organization of Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia registered as a non-profit in the state of Illinois. It came about after years of planning by a number of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) which established this unified organization in late 2012. We seek non-profit, non-partisan, independent and united civic organizations to work on our common global agenda; maximize our human, material and financial resources; and avoid current duplication of efforts by Ethiopians around the world.

Ethiopiawinnet envisions a world where ordinary citizens are empowered to participate fully as agents in the affairs of their communities and their country.



Much has been written and spoken about Ethiopia but precious few have offered evidencebased solutions to its myriad problems. In our view, a successful transformation of the political and economic order must build on the fruitful achievements of the past in three distinct but complementary stages:

The first stage calls for a shared vision of where we want Ethiopia to go. In this regard, Ethioipiawinnet has proudly offered the CITIZENS CHARTER FOR A DEMOCRATIC ETHIOPIA.

The second stage entails mapping out the political and economic contours through a clinical diagnosis of the binding structural constraints and the requisite reforms to effect an irreversible march toward an open society. We have organized this civic education symposium with the aim of making significant inroads into this challenging task sober deliberation.

The third stage is all about turning these fruitful ideas for reform into the building blocks of a genuinely inclusive transofrmation of Ethiopian society. This global, all-party initiative must succeed in crafting an enforceable settlement by a united front of notable political parties, civic organizations, and respected community leaders. We welcome you all. Let the search for solutions begin with utmost eagerness and humility

## The Current Situation in Ethiopia

We have come to the realization that the civil leg needed for this empowerment has been deliberately enfeebled in Ethiopia. The public square has so far been dominated by the ruling political party, with fragmented opposition political parties enjoying only fleeting access. Without a strong and independent civic movement to defend basic freedoms (of speech, press, assembly, and association), civic trust will continue to be eroded. The absence of mammoth grassroots civic movement is the missing link for the delay or absence of constructive social and political change. Ethioipiawinnet seeks to be the grassroots civic movement that brings constructive social and political change.

## International Journal of Ethiopian Studies

Vol IX, NO 1& 2 -Special Issue  
2015  
[www.store.tsehaipublishers.com](http://www.store.tsehaipublishers.com)

1.The Case for a New Constitution for Ethiopia

by Alemante Gebreselassie

2. A Pathway from Exclusionary to Inclusionary State and Market Institutions for Ethiopia

by Berhanu Abegaz

3. Ethiopia's Post-EPRDF Transition: Challenges in Identifying and Defining the Major Stakeholders

by Erku Yimer

The Charter implores Ethiopians to critically reflect on the bitter lessons of the recent past. A legitimate state will have to be rebuilt on the basis of durable peace, the rule of law, and justice. This is why we humbly but uncompromisingly draw attention to the designers of a democratic Ethiopia the need for a meeting of minds on the following guiding principles which capture the lessons of experience with modernization efforts in the past half century:

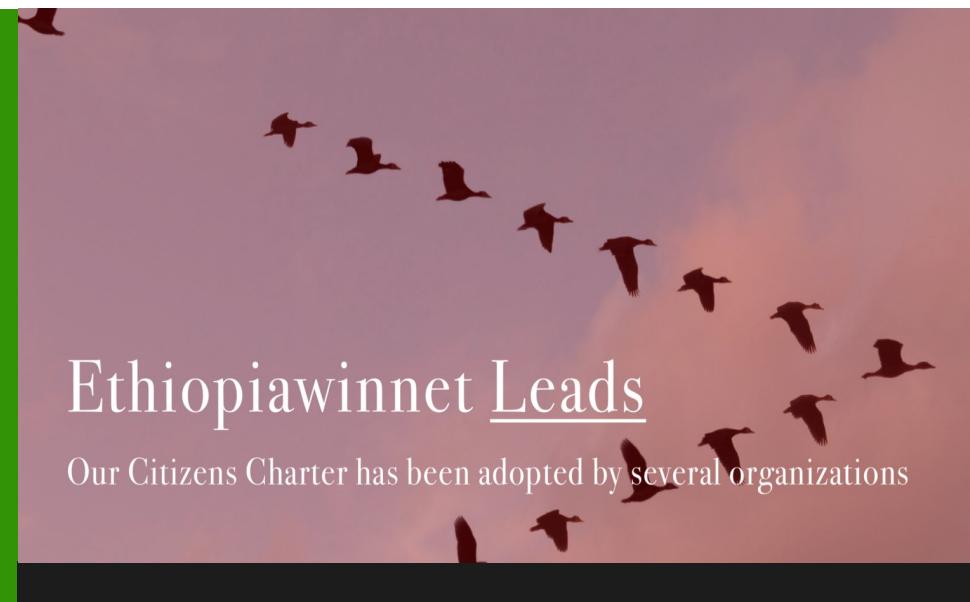
- (a) Respect for Ethiopia's Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity:
- (b) Primacy of the Constitutional Rights of the Individual Citizen:
- (c) The right to food security for all citizens:
- (d) At least one national language:
- (e) A Non-sectarian Devolution of State Power:
- (f) Representative Military, Judicial and Civil Services:
- (g) A Full-fledged Market Economy:
- (h) Independent Civic and Political Organizations:
- (i) Checks and Balances among the Organs of the State:

Visit the site to learn more:

[www.ethiopiawin.com](http://www.ethiopiawin.com)

Or

[www.ethiopiawin.net](http://www.ethiopiawin.net)



## CITIZENS CHARTER

The Citizens Charter is a nonpartisan declaration of the bedrock principles and protections that define our shared vision for a post-socialist, post-ethnic and cosmopolitan Ethiopia:

- It cultivates civic virtue by serving as a Bill of Rights for Ethiopians who wish to build a society that is open and pluralist.
- It provides a clear vision and collective aspirations for an alliance of engaged citizens, civic organizations and political organizations to bring to fruition the fervent desire for national unity, territorial integrity, and self-governing local communities in a democratic Ethiopia.
- It relies on the power of reason and conscience to launch a protracted worldwide civic engagement that is dedicated to the respect for and protection, by government and citizens alike, of the universally accepted human, civil, cultural and political rights of all Ethiopians.
- It upholds the fundamental values of the dignity of and respect for the individual, mutual support and service to community, and appreciation of cultural diversity—all of which are among the hallmarks of the Ethiopian spirit and Ethiopian civilization that the present generation can build on.
- We seek to elevate civic activism as the most reliable guarantor of freedom from autocratic politicians and a predatory State. In so doing, the Charter rings the wake-up call for Ethiopian citizens to take up the common cause of fighting for the full realization of individual liberty as their birthright, and honoring with conviction the duties that are inherently bundled with such rights.

It issues a clarion call to all Ethiopians to discard for good the outmoded political culture of master and servant and assume the unavoidable responsibility of ushering in a new culture of rights and responsibilities. This inevitably means that our civic and political discourse shall henceforth be Charter 2012/ 3 of 10 honest and citizen-centered, and our leaders shall be judged by their demonstrated commitment to public service, transparency, and accountability. The Charter is, therefore, intended as an inspiration for Ethiopians of all walks of life to assert the sovereignty of the citizen and the indivisible national identity of Ethiopiawinnet through collective action for an inclusive democratic government. It is in this spirit that we ask all democratic Ethiopian political parties and civic organizations to demonstrate their leadership by endorsing it in full or incorporating the basic tenets outlined in this Charter into their manifestos and programs.



# Ethiopiawinnet Builds

We have brought together 11 organizations under one name



## Contact Us

- Website

[www.ethiopiawin.com](http://www.ethiopiawin.com)

[www.ethiopiawin.net](http://www.ethiopiawin.net)

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Michigan 48823 (USA)

## 2017 Ethiopiawinnet Symposium

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Ethiopiawinnet Council for the Defense of Citizens' Rights

**Conference Theme:** Transition and Development in a Dynamic and Inclusive Democratic Ethiopia

**Date:** August 12 - 13, 2017

**Venue:** Sheraton Silver Spring Hotel 8777 Georgia Av. Silver Spring, MD

### Preliminary Program

#### Saturday, August 12, 2017

I. Registration [8:00 – 9:00]

II. Introduction and Welcome [9:00 – 9:30]

III. THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA [ 9:30 – 10:30]

IV. POLITICAL CULTURE, DEMOCRATIC DISCOURSE AND ETHIOPIAN VALUES [11:30 – 1:00]

V. CIVIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS [Presentation and Panel Discussion] [2:30 -4:00]

#### Sunday: August 13, 2017

VI. LAND DEVELOPMENT AND LAND POLICY [9:00 – 11:00]

VII. SUMMARY - highlights of conference and discussion [11:00 -12:00]

### 2017 Ethiopiawinnet Symposium Objective

Ethiopia is often referred to as a land of contrasts. On one hand it is believed to have achieved a double-digit economic growth, expanded education and health services and improved the poverty level in the country. On the other, it is known as one of the poorest countries in Africa with a wide range of economic, political and social problems. To have insight on some of these contradictions, Ethiopiawinnet, in this year's conference, focuses on the following areas: education, political culture and democratic values, civic education and human rights, land development and land policy. We have invited prominent scholars and community leaders to address some of these issues at the conference on August 12-13, 2017 at the Sheraton Silver



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**Ethiopiawinnet:**

*Council for the Defense of Citizens' Rights*

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**Symposium 3: Transition and Development for a Democratic Ethiopia**

This is the third symposium organized by **Ethiopiawinnet** as a part of its civic education program on evidence-based understanding of the challenges faced by Ethiopia in building a modern, inclusive political and economic system. This symposium focuses on fundamental policy issues (education and land) as well as political culture (Ethiopian and global).

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These features beg several questions: why does Ethiopia, with rich resources and great potential, have over 10 percent of its 100 million citizens chronically on the verge of starvation, and millions of the country's youth unable to find employment? Why is the country on the brink of descending into a dreadful civil war as millions of its citizens defy yet another oppressive government?

**Ethiopiawinnet** believes that the roots of these structural problems and the latent opportunities to overcome them are not well understood. In the absence of a think tank to investigate these issues, we have taken upon ourselves to invite scholars and notable civil servants to offer answers to the most perplexing social, economic and political problems the country faces. To that end, this year, the organization will focus on the following four major areas:

- Education
- Democratic values
- Land rights
- Human Rights

**Date:** August 12 - 13, 2017

**Venue:** Sheraton Silver Spring Hotel  
8777 Georgia Av. Silver Spring, MD

## **PROGRAM**

**Saturday, August 12, 2017**

**Registration [8:00 – 9:00 am]**

**Introduction and welcome [9:00 – 9:30]**

**Session I. THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA [ 9:30 – 11:00]**

**Chair:** Dr. Almaz Zewde

Dr. Akililu Habte: Education Policy under Haile Selassie and the Derg

Dr. Adane Gebyaw Kassa : The adverse role of the political environment in achieving quality education in Ethiopia

**Session II. POLITICAL CULTURE, DEMOCRATIC DISCOURSE AND ETHIOPIAN VALUES [11:30 – 1:00]**

**Chair:** Dr. Berhanu Abegaz

Dr. Abadir Ibrahim: Exploring the role of political culture and democratic discourse in Ethiopia's 'march' towards (non?) democracy

Dr. Gedion Timotewos Hessebon: Politics without moral foundations: The tyranny of "identity" in politics

**Lunch Break**

**Session III. LAND DEVELOPMENT AND LAND POLICY [2:30 – 4:00 pm]**

**Chair:** Prof. Alemante Gebre Selassie

Dr. Achamyeleh Gashu: The pitfall of land acquisition for urban expansion from peri-urban areas of Ethiopia

Dr. Mulatu Wubneh: Policies and praxis of land acquisition and development in Ethiopia (comment)

**Sunday: August 13, 2017**

**Session IV. CIVIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS [11:00 -12:30 pm]**

**Chair:** Dr. Erku Yimer

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Dr. Abadir (Comment) - The legal implications of HR

Prof. Alemante (Comment) - HR and the law

**Session V. REIMAGINING A NON-ETHNOCENTRIC ETHIOPIAN STATE –  
ROUNDTABLE [1:00 – 2:30 pm]**

**Chair: Ayalsew Dessie**

Gonder Hibret

Gojam Hibret

Wollo Heritage

Shewa Hibret

**Session VI. SUMMARY - highlights and what next? [2:30-3:00 pm]**

**Dr. Mulatu Wubneh**

**Dr. Berhanu Abegaz**

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