



*Cimade*

Strasbourg, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007

**INVITATION**  
to the  
*European Conference on  
the respect of the rights of foreign minors in Europe  
And against their detention and forced removal*

**Strasbourg 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
At the seat of the Council of Europe (Room 1)**

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you are aware, a proposal for a **European directive on common standards and procedures applicable within Member States to the return of illegally-staying third-country nationals** is currently under discussion at the European Parliament and at the Council of the European Union. As the end of the work being carried out by the LIBE is drawing near, you will be called to vote on this text during a plenary session within the next few weeks.

Worried by the absence from this proposal of any specific measures covering minors, the ANAFE and the CIMADE launched a **European appeal against the detention and the forced removal of foreign minors on the 5 October 2006** and which has now been signed by 200 organisations, nearly 700 elected representatives and more than 2600 private individuals. The signatories of this European appeal request that, if the directive is indeed adopted, it be done so in such a way as to respect international commitments given by all Member States of the European Union and that it strictly prohibits the detention and forced removal of minors.

To give you the opportunity to take part in public debate and to pass on the message of the European appeal to European bodies during this crucial period, the association Themis and the CIMADE have the pleasure to invite you **to a European conference on the respect of the rights of foreign minors in Europe and against their detention and forced removal** which will take place in Strasbourg on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at the seat of the Council of Europe (room 1).

As part of the implementation of its programme entitled **Building a Europe for and with Children which aims at ensuring the promotion of the rights of Children and their**

**protection** against all forms of violence, the Council of Europe has accepted to provide its support for the initiative.

Our aim is to bring together European association leaders and politicians (from the European Union, the Council of Europe and its national parliaments). This debate aims to contribute to the adoption of a text which respects the accepted fundamental principles contained in the various international agreements which cover the Member States of the European Union and of the Council of Europe such as the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Convention on Human Rights. Please find enclosed a detailed programme of the conference.

As security formalities have been strengthened at the Council of Europe where this conference will be held, please be sure to confirm your participation before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

We very much look forward to seeing at the conference.

Yours faithfully

**Josiane BIGOT**  
President of THEMIS  
President of the French National Network  
of legal advisory services  
for children and young people

**Marie-Odile WIEDERKEHR**  
President of the Regional Council  
of the CIMADE in Alsace Lorraine

Contact:

**M. Richard ANDREO SANCHO**  
Directeur of Themis  
36, rue Oberlin 67 000 Strasbourg  
(+0033) (0)3 88 24 84 00  
[themis-directeur@wanadoo.fr](mailto:themis-directeur@wanadoo.fr)

**CONFIRMATION :**

To be sent back at the address mentioned above before **10 March 2007**

Informations to give :

Name

First name

Address

Phone number

E-mail

Association, NGO, Institution or Organisation :

**Will participate at the Conference on 14<sup>th</sup> Mars 2007**