

AFRICAN GALA NIGHT 2023
INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY & END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, 16.12.2023 / 04pm / OSTERMUNDIGEN/BE

Zivilschutzzentrum (ZSZ), Steinbruchweg 7, 3072 Ostermundigen

1. Background Information and objectives

International Migrants Day is an annual observance that highlights the contributions of migrants to societies around the world and promotes the protection of their rights. It recognizes the opportunities and challenges associated with international migration and aims to raise awareness about the experiences of migrants and their impact on global communities.

International Migrants Day is observed on December 18th each year. This date was chosen to coincide with the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of their Families by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990.

Celebrating International Migrants Day involves activities that promote inclusivity, empathy, and understanding of migrant experiences.

A coalition of Migrants organisations in Switzerland celebrates this year's International Migrants' Day with a **Gala Night** featuring cultural events and discussions centered on the contributions of the **Diaspora in Switzerland** while highlighting the challenges they face and the need for protection. The event will take place in Bern-Ostermundigen and is open to all members of the Migrants and Diaspora communities, diplomatic missions as well as the Swiss host community.

Going by the adage, "the bigger, the better", the African community through a coalition of African organisations in Switzerland aims at reaching out to each other by coming together to organise the event, network, get to know each other better, inform each other of their organisations and projects for possible collaborations and support. The invited embassies and Swiss authorities and other stakeholders will obtain a first hand experience of the activities of the Diaspora in Switzerland. Intergenerational relationships are strengthened with the integrated children, youth and adult programs.

Entry is free

2. DRAFT PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY, 16.12.2023 / 04:00PM

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TIME	ACTIVITIES	SPEAKERS
04:00 - 04:30pm	Arrival / Networking of participants	All participants
04:30 - 05:00pm	Opening ceremony Welcome remark Goodwill messages of embassies and diplomatic missions	Thomas Iten (tbc) Mayor of the Municipality of Ostermundigen Representatives Embassies and diplomatique missions
05:00 - 05:45pm	Input on history of African migration in Switzerland Input: Diversity as part of Switzerland's cultural heritage	Silje Staubli , University of Bern Olga Pisarek (Aktion Vierviertel)
05:45 - 07:00pm	Economic empowerment, Social and political participation Presentation of Diaspora associations and Businesses, integration and development activities and projects	Representatives of Diaspora organisations and businesses
07:00 - 08:pm	Dinner with soft music	All participants
08:00 - 09:00pm	Children and youth activities Quiz about African and Swiss history and general knowledge Presentation of African cultural talents, competition of young singers, dancers, artists and best dressed children and couples	Children and youth
From 09:00pm till the End	Music, dancing hall opens	All participants