



# **E**thiopian Sports & Culture Federation in UK

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## Press Release

### **Merger Announcement of Ethiopian Sports and Culture Organisation UK (ESCO UK) and Ethiopian Sports and Culture Federation UK (ESCF UK)**

Ethiopians love sports - coming from a country that to date produces some of the best distance runners ever, it is not much of a surprise to many... So does their love for Doro wot and Injera, Eskesta and Wolayta dance and of course, the rich history that dates back to biblical times. Who would doubt their patriotism and love for their nation. However, their Achilles Heal long remains to be that of “working together” a viral that torments them to this day (maybe a bit more than other cultural societies)

It is in this backdrop that many sports and cultural activities have been running sporadically in our community in the UK for quite a long time. Continuing on the legacy of community festivals but fed up of spontaneity, two groups arose in our community almost simultaneously for almost similar purposes. ESCO UK had the vision of organising a yearly festival of Ethiopian sports and culture, culminating in a large scale event in 2012 in relation to the Olympics games. ESCF UK on the other hand, also concentrated on yearly events of the same nature and both organisations made successful efforts to run various small events. However, it increasingly became clear that they were both heading for a head on clash in the summer as both would be preparing for more or less the same games or objectives, targeting the same community.

Thus, long forgotten Ethiopian wisdom burst out and the groups reproached to discuss the possibility of working together on a summer event so as not to further divide their community and resources. They discussed over their visions, organisational capacities, issues of bias and division in leadership in their community and available resources. Sometimes they felt they had reached a dead end and almost gave up. However, thanks to the tolerance and insight on both sides what

began as a discussion on working together on an event slowly resulted in the merging of the two organisations.



**Thus, ESCO UK and ESCF UK announce to the Ethiopian community and all other parties that they have merged as one organisation adopting the name “Ethiopian Sports and Culture Federation in UK” and the acronym of ESCF UK.**

The Ethiopian sports and Culture Federation in UK (the Federation) is a non-profit organisation that is in the process of registering as a Community Interest Company. It is non-political and impartial organisation. It is also an organisation that would comply to the principles of Equality and Diversity and other basic laws of the UK..

The Federation intends to facilitate and manage the annual summer sports and culture festival of the community, the grand Olympics festival of 2012, the Ethiopian European football games in the UK and other smaller events and activities that will ensure the widest participation of community members of all age, gender and general background.

It is evident that initiatives of such a scale require vast resources and organisational capacity. As a community we are powerful and mighty thus we believe that we are capable of achieving our objectives if members of our community pool their resources and work together in good faith. We will work in partnership with all community organisations, churches and other faith groups, and businesses. We implore you as a resourceful member of our community to support us in every way possible.

Your input is paramount in raising the hopes of our community and give awareness to our children. Wouldn't you want to see our culture and identity passed on to them?!

We also take opportunity to announce that we will be having a two-day celebration of Ethiopian sports and culture at Linford Christie Stadium on 25- 26 June 2011. The BIG DAY for Ethiopian sports and culture will be a major event leading to the 2012 Grand Olympics celebration. A highlight of the games will be the match between a 1<sup>st</sup> Division Czech Republic football team and a selected best football team of the Ethiopian community in the UK.

**Ethiopian Sports and Culture Federation in UK**

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