



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Advocates and African Immigrant Services to Host Community Conversation on Immigrant Experiences in Minnesota

Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN (11/5/2012) – The Advocates for Human Rights will partner with African Immigrant Services (AIS) to host a community conversation on immigrant experiences in Minnesota on November 15, 2012. The event will provide an opportunity for Minnesotan immigrants to share stories about living in the state and to discuss challenges and opportunities facing their communities.

“We are excited to partner with African Immigrant Services and hear from community members about their experiences of living in Minnesota,” said Robin Phillips, executive director of The Advocates. “We define ‘welcome’ as the ability to live with dignity and fully enjoy basic human rights, and we want all Minnesotans to feel welcome in our state.”

The community conversation will contribute to the *One Voice Minnesota Monitoring Project*, a community-based fact finding project organized by The Advocates. The project seeks to investigate to what extent Minnesota welcomes all of its residents, and to evaluate how immigrant experiences in Minnesota compare to international human rights standards. By recording the experiences of immigrants and other key communities in Minnesota, the project will work to eliminate anti-immigrant bias and build communities in which the human rights of all Minnesotans are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

“The first step toward helping Minnesotans realize their human rights and feel truly welcome in their communities is to identify where we stand today and how we can move forward together,” said AIS Executive Director Abdullah Kiatamba. “We are thrilled to be able to provide a forum in which Minnesotans can gather together and share their experiences – both good and bad – of living in Minnesota.”

The Advocates will use information gathered at the community conversation and throughout the *One Voice Minnesota Monitoring Project* to create a “blueprint for welcome” for policy makers and activists. Recommendations will aim to ensure that all Minnesotans feel welcome and enjoy their basic human rights.

Date: November 15, 2012

Time: 5:45 p.m.

Location: Brooklyn Park Council Chambers, 5200 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

For more information please contact:

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The Advocates for Human Rights, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, is dedicated to the promotion of internationally-recognized human rights. To learn more, visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.

African Immigrant Services is a community-based non-profit organization working to create new possibilities and opportunities through civic engagement and creative access to resources. To learn more, visit aisusa.org/.