

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BULLETIN 4/2007

1. POLICIES, INITIATIVES AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE

Declaration of the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues

The National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues with the Council of Ministers (NCCEDI) on its regular session on 27.09.2007 (chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Emel Etem) adopted a special declaration in response to the ethnic incidents that happened in August in Sofia and some other cities in the country. According to the document the NCCEDI 'is concerned with the increasing cases of confrontation and violence from which innocent Bulgarian citizens are suffering' and 'appeals for the strict observance of the rights as well as the responsibilities embedded in the Constitution and the laws of the country'. The declaration also calls for the 'preservation of the traditional model of tolerance and understanding' and for 'ethical and objective coverage by the media of those events that concern the protection of ethnic peace and the balance in ethnic relations'. In conclusion the declaration sends an appeal to the political parties for responsible and adequate behaviour and rhetoric as regards 'the ethnic peace as a fundamental value of Bulgarian society'.

<http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=73&id=626>

Some 50 Teachers Trained to Teach Roma Folklore

Fifty seven teachers were trained to teach Roma folklore on a three-day training held in Veliko Turnovo on 5-7.10.2007. They will teach the subject for the first time in the 2007/2008 school year. The training was organised by the Amalipe Center. The selective classes on Roma folklore have been introduced as a school subject in 2002. During the 2006/2007 school year it has been taught in over 230 schools in Bulgaria and the interest of the students towards the subject is constantly increasing, the Amalipe Center has said.

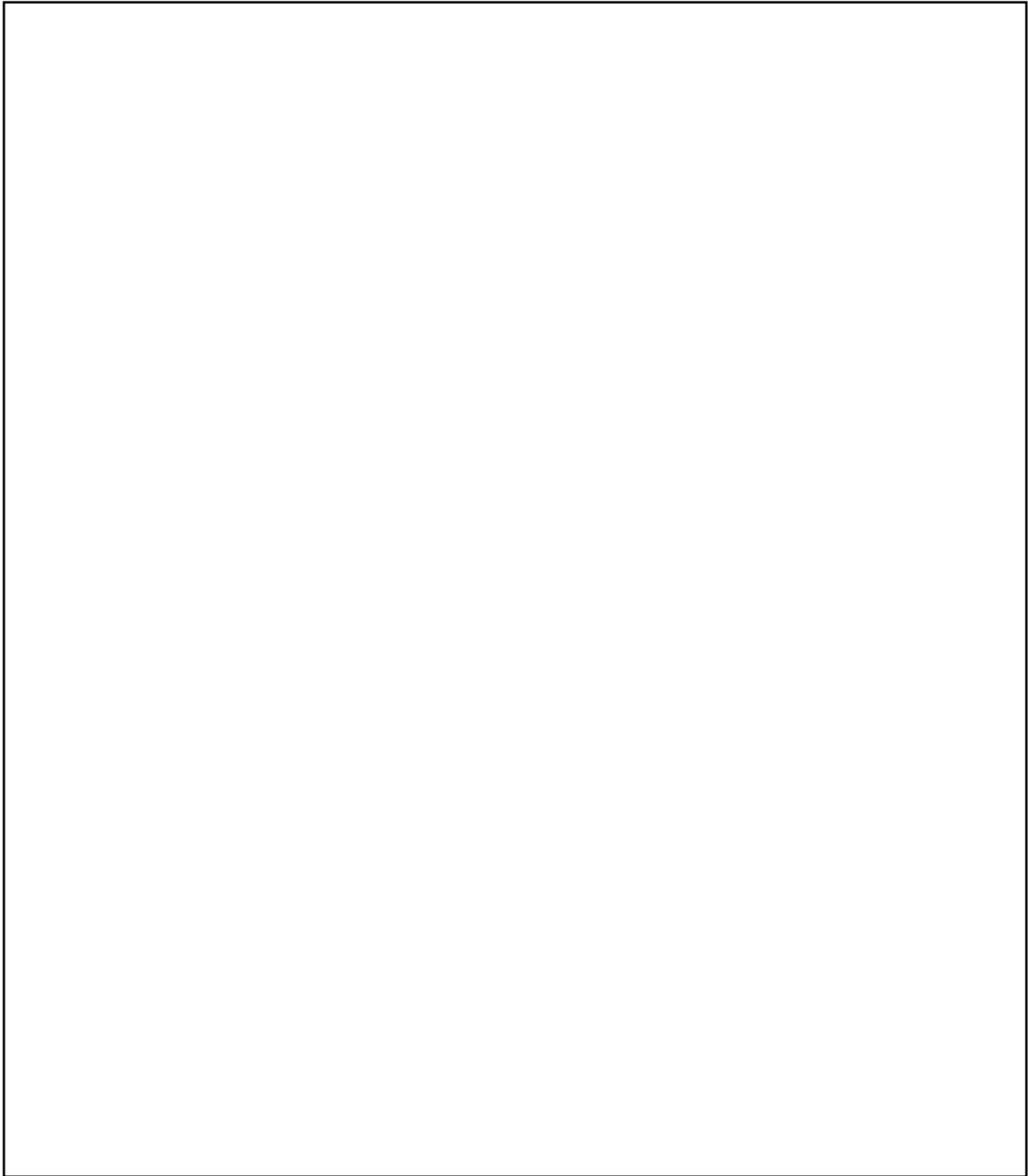
<http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=73&id=640>

Concluding conference under the project 'With Respect to the Different'

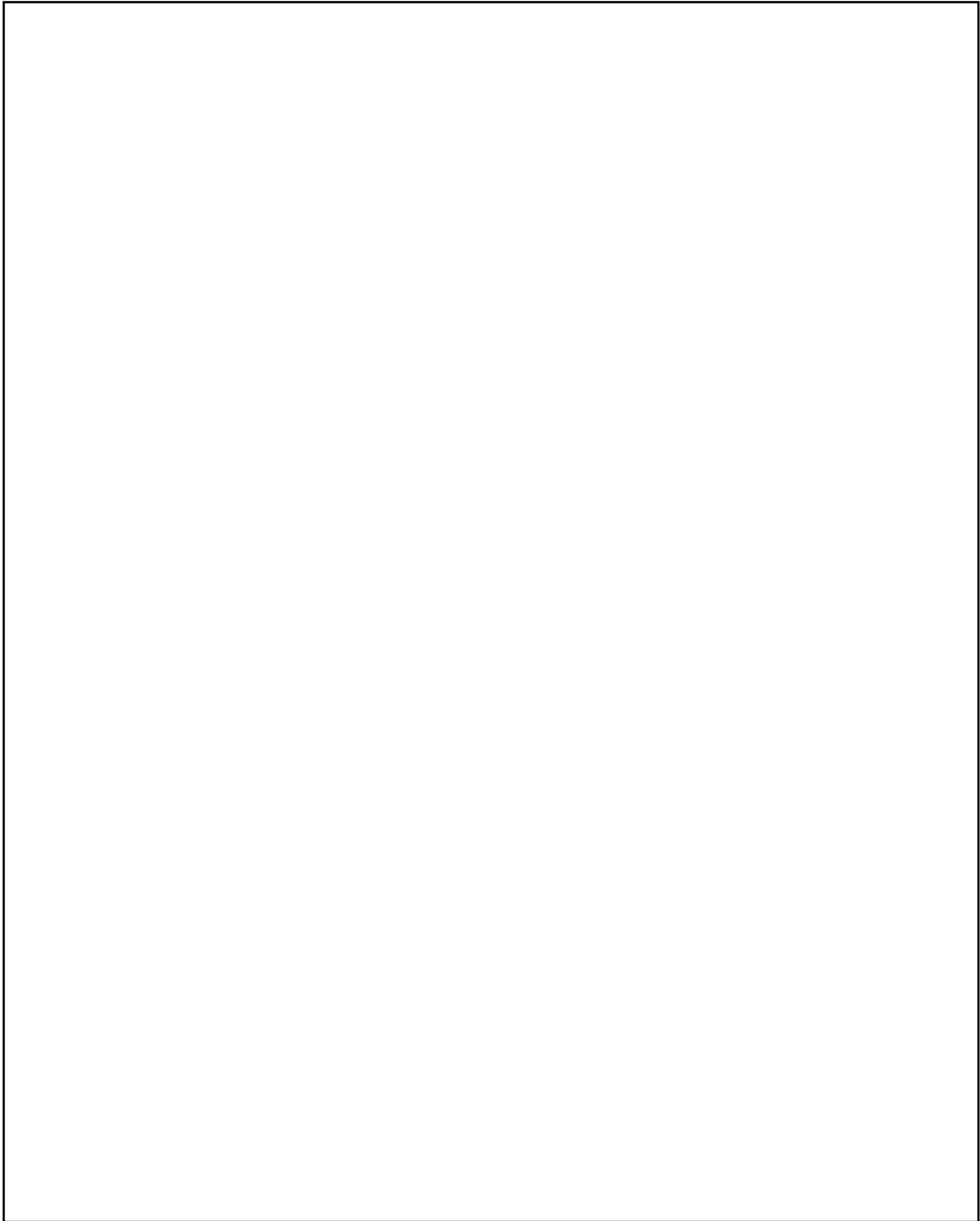
On 15.10.2007 the NCCEDI organised the concluding conference under the project 'With Respect to the Different'. The event brought together Members of the European Parliament, representatives of central governmental institutions dealing with anti-discrimination policies, local authorities, representatives of civic organisations and media. During the event the results of the six regional anti-discrimination conferences held throughout the country were presented. The participants also discussed a proposed set of indicators for measuring discrimination.

<http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=73&id=644>

2. LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS AND AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS



3. RESEARCH



4. Official / unofficial statistical data

Municipal Strategy on the Decade of Roma Inclusion in Sofia 2007-2013

On 28.09.2007 the Municipal Council of Sofia adopted a Municipal Strategy on the Decade of Roma Inclusion in Sofia 2007-2013. The background section of the strategy offers comprehensive statistical data on the Roma population in the district of Sofia in the areas of housing, employment, education and healthcare (most of the information refers to 2006).

According to the strategy the Roma population in Sofia amounts to 120,000 people or almost 10 per cent of the population of Sofia. About 40,000 Roma live in the Fakulteto neighbourhood.

The homes of about 1,500 Roma households fully respond to relevant standards, 2,000 households do not possess any lodging, more than 2,500 lodgings could be legalised, while more than 6,000 should be entirely or partly removed. As regards education the strategy states that less than per cent of the Roma population in Sofia has a university degree, 7 per cent have graduated high school, 46 per cent have basic education, 37 per cent have primary education, and almost 9 per cent are illiterate. As of 31.07.2006 70 per cent of the persons registered as unemployed in Sofia were Roma. The life expectancy among the Roma population is about ten years shorter than the average life expectancy for the country. Infant mortality rate is 28/1000 among the Roma, 17/1000 among the Turks, and 9.9/1000 among the Bulgarians.

http://www.sofiacouncil.bg/content/docs/c_f13160.pdf

5. Upcoming events

