



THE COMPASS ROBIN COOK MEMORIAL CONFERENCE 2007; SHAPING OUR GLOBAL WORLD

MIGRANT REMITTANCES: HELPING SENDERS AND RECEIVERS GET MORE BANG FOR THEIR BUCK

From 1:30pm – 2:45pm, Saturday 9 June 2007
Westminster Central Hall, Storeys Gate, London, SW1H 9NH

Speakers

Chair: **Yasmin Alibhai-Brown**, *The Independent*
Gareth Thomas MP, DfID Minister and Chair of the Co-operative Party
Murad Qureshi AM, London Assembly
Gibril Faal, AFFORD / RemitAid™

To inform public debate about the challenges and opportunities migration presents to reducing global poverty, the Foreign Policy Centre and the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) will jointly host a fringe event at this year's Compass conference.

The impact of migration on poverty reduction can be understood through the transfers of money from migrant workers and diaspora communities to their countries or regions of origin. This process provides an important perspective through which to explore the complexities of globalisation. Remittances are the largest external source of finance for many developing countries – greater than foreign direct investment and official aid inflows. In 2006, the World Bank reported that official remittance flows into developing countries rose to \$200 billion. Yet the true size of remittances is much larger due to the very high level of unrecorded flows. Given the economic significance of remittances in low income countries, public policy needs to give higher priority to maximising the developmental benefits and reducing the imperfections and risks associated with this important form of international development finance.

OTHER SPEAKERS AT THE MAIN CONFERENCE INCLUDE: London Mayor **Ken Livingstone**; UNISON's **Dave Prentis**; Deputy Leadership challenger **Jon Cruddas MP**; Compass Chair **Neal Lawson**; the TUC's **Frances O'Grady**; Compass Parliamentary Chair **Jon Trickett MP**; chair of POWER **Baroness Helena Kennedy**; Northern Ireland Secretary **Peter Hain MP**; Centre for Global Governance's **David Held**; Constitutional Affairs Minister **Harriet Harman MP**; Liberty's **Shami Chakrabarti**; Action Aid's **Collins Magalasi**; **Dawn Butler MP**; The Guardian's **John Harris**; the Fabian Society's **Louise Bamfield** and **Tim Horton**; **Emily Thornberry MP**; UNISON's **Keith Sonnet**; **Claire Fox** from the Institute of Ideas; Compass's **Miranda Grell**; BBC Newsnight's **Paul Mason**; **Helen Goodman MP**; POWER's **Pam Giddy**; Red Pepper's **Hilary Wainwright**; The Times' **David Aaronovitch**; **Sukhvinder Stubbs** of the Barrow Cadbury Trust; **Mark Seddon** diplomatic correspondent at Al Jazeera; **Tony Benn**; leadership challenger **John McDonnell MP**; IPPR's **Nick Pearce**; the Citizenship Foundation's **Tony Breslin**; CND's **Kate Hudson**; Demos's **Catherine Fieschi**; **Angela Eagle MP**; **Gemma Tumelty** of NUS; writer **Sue Palmer**; the United Nations' **Antonio Miranda**; **Colin Burgon MP**; CER's **Katinka Barysch**; Prospect's **David Goodhart**; **Roger Liddle** of the European Commission; the DTI's **Vicky Pryce**; TUC's **Owen Tudor**; **Derek Draper** from the Campaign for Therapy; Citizen Organising Foundation's **Neil Jameson**; London Citizen's **Catherine Howarth**; UNISON's **Deborah Littman**; **Julie Camacho** from the Latin American Worker's Association; **Ahmad Amir Ali** of the Muslim Association of Britain.

REGISTRATION: Conference attendees are encouraged to book in advance and can register using the PDF booking form attached or by calling **020 7463 0633** to request a booking form. Tickets range from £22.00 and are available through the New Statesman and Tribune Magazines or June's edition of the Red Pepper and LLB (Labour Left Briefing). You can also purchase tickets online at the following address: <http://www.compassonline.org.uk/conference/register.asp>.

For additional information please contact Josephine Osikena at the Foreign Policy Centre
josephine.osikena@fpc.org.uk or +44 (0) 207 729 7566