



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- NEWS RELEASE -

**BYSIEWICZ: NATIONAL DEBATE OVER IMMIGRATION SHOULD
NOT CLOUD 10TH ANNUAL IMMIGRANT DAY AT THE STATE
CAPITOL**

BYSIEWICZ TO HONOR 18 IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE MADE REMARKABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONNECTICUT

Hartford: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz will join with DemocracyWorks and the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (CIRC) in hosting the 10th annual “Immigrant Day” at the State Capitol today, a day to honor immigrants from throughout Connecticut who have made valuable contributions to their communities and/or professions.

“The national debate over immigration often overshadows the remarkable contributions that so many immigrants make to our communities,” said Bysiewicz. “I hope this Immigrant Day will encourage all residents to pause and recognize the vital role immigrants have had, and continue to have, in Connecticut. I congratulate all the honorees and their families”

Secretary Bysiewicz will join in honoring 18 immigrants from 17 different countries today- Tuesday, April 24, 2007- in the Old Judiciary Room on the 3rd Floor of the State Capitol at 1 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Beverly Coker, a

resident of Windsor and native of Jamaica who is currently the Assistant Principal at Hartford Transitional Learning Academy.

The honoree will also include two Hartford high school students and 16 immigrants who live in towns across Connecticut. A complete list of the honorees can be found at the end of the news release.

“America continues to offer hope and possibilities to immigrants who arrive on our shores poised with the ambition to improve the quality of their lives and members of their families who are left behind,” commented Beverly Coker, who is the Keynote speaker for Immigrant Day and Assistant Principal at Hartford Transitional Learning Academy.

“I am honored to be surrounded by so many deserving men, women, and students who have been chosen as the awardees for the 10th Connecticut Immigrant Day. The Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition advocates for fair and just policies affecting refugees and immigrants who have made this country and our state of Connecticut a shining example of cultural diversity for the entire world,” commented Robert J. Fishman, President of the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (CIRC) and Executive Director of the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT).

“Immigrants have contributed to every dimension of Connecticut’s economy and civic life. We are pleased to recognize the outstanding individuals and many others for their contributions in their respective fields,” said Joyce Hamilton Henry, Executive Director of DemocracyWorks and Vice-Chair of CIRC. “DemocracyWorks is a proud partner in this collaborative effort to encourage immigrant civic engagement.”

Immigrant Day is an annual event sponsored by the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (CIRC), and the Secretary of the State’s Office, designed to honor local and statewide immigrants who have contributed to their community and/or profession.

10th Annual Immigrant Day Ceremony Honoree List

<u>Honoree</u>	<u>Country of Origin</u>	<u>CT Residence</u>
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Keynote Speaker and Honoree

Beverly Coker

Jamaica

Windsor

High School Students Honoree

Fludiona Naka	Albania	Hartford
Begaeta Nukie	Bosnia	Hartford

Honorees

Helena Abrantes	Portugal	Danbury
Rafael Aparicio	Peru	Darien
Teresa Borowska	Poland	New Britain
Dr. Felix Bronner	Austria	West Hartford
Zal Dez	Iran	West Haven
Kimberly Essue	Jamaica	Hartford
Nilofer Haider	Pakistan	South Windsor
Dr. Subhash C. Jain	India	Storrs
Dr. Eufronio G. Maderazo	Philippines	Manchester
Dr. Cara Mulcahy	Canada	West Hartford
Chantal-Marie Ndikunkiko	Burundi	Cromwell
Urania Petit	St. Lucia	Hartford
Bidya Ranjeet	Nepal	Storrs
Remy A. Rodas	Bolivia	Ridgefield
Dr. Panos A. Livadiotis	Greece	South Windsor

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