

## **Eritrean Women's Conference**

The Hague, Netherlands

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2018, a gathering of over sixty representatives of several Eritrean women's groups and women activists from ten countries across Europe convened a successful conference in The Hague, The Netherlands, from 9 to 10 March 2018. *Eri-Platform* facilitated the two-day conference, which aimed to strengthen solidarity, expand outreach and grow the network of Eritrean women in Europe and beyond.

The underlying theme was women's empowerment. Discussions sought to share experiences, lessons learned and approaches for enhancing women's participation in promoting gender equality within the overall framework of rule of law, democratic principles and respect for human rights in Eritrea. The conference provided an opportunity to share a range of experiences and challenges faced by Eritrean women at home and in the Diaspora, whether along migration routes, in refugee camps, or while seeking asylum in host countries; to help raise greater awareness of the woman question as an integral part of the general demand for democracy in Eritrea; and to join hands in the search for feasible solutions. Representatives and participants in attendance reflected Eritrea's cultural diversity, cutting across generations from youth to veteran freedom fighters.

The conference concluded by electing a committee to coordinate collaborative work at the local and regional levels toward improving women's participation and capacity-building.

