ERT Work Itinerary: January - June 2009

January 9, 2009: Met with the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and members of her office to discuss cooperation on promoting the Declaration of Principles on Equality, in Geneva.

January 9 - 11, 2009: Participated in Oxford Refugee Studies Centre Short Course on Statelessness, including conducting a session on De Facto Statelessness and contributing course material.

January 23, 2009: Wrote to the Prime Minister of Thailand, expressing grave concern over the discriminatory forced expulsion of stateless Rohingya from Thailand.


January 29, 2009: Met with representatives of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s Iran Co-ordination Group to discuss the human rights situation in Iran.


February 6, 2009: Published article “Thailand Must Stop Dumping Stateless People at Sea”, The Daily Telegraph, UK.

February 20, 2009: Wrote to Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the inaugural World Day of Social Justice, and appealed to him to promote the Declaration of Principles on Equality and to recommend it to relevant UN organisations and agencies.


February 25, 2009: Sent joint letter to the ASEAN summit, urging a resolution of the
Rohingya issue from a regional stand point through engaging with Myanmar on the question of citizenship rights for Rohingya in Myanmar.

March 2, 2009: Met with representatives of the UK Charity Commission to discuss the implications of the equality principles for establishing equality and diversity best practices and regulating the charity sector in the UK, in London.

March 14, 2009: Participated as keynote speaker in the Tenth Annual Student Conference on Human Rights, spoke on “The Defamation of Religion”, in Nottingham, UK.

March 25, 2009: Met with a representative of the British Equality and Human Rights Commission to discuss the inclusion of equality aspects in the UK migration and border policies, in London.

March 31, 2009: Participated in Equality and Diversity Forum Roundtable discussion on “Refugees, Migrants and the Equality Agenda”.


April 6 - 8, 2009: Participated in the UN Alliance of Civilizations Second World Forum, to promote the Declaration of Principles on Equality and present the results of the ERT study on religion and healthcare, in Istanbul.

April 14, 2009: Made a presentation at the Religion and Democracy grouping of the European parliament on the ERT study on religion and healthcare, in Brussels.


May 13, 2009: Joined other NGOs from around the world in calling upon the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to hold a Special Session on the current human rights catastrophe in Sri Lanka, as a matter of urgent concern.

May 14 - 16, 2009: Participated in conference “Fighting Poverty, Creating Opportunities”, organised by the European Foundation Centre, and moderated one of its sessions, in Rome.


May 19, 2009: Submitted written comments to the UK Public Bill Committee for the Equality Bill 2009, urging the acceptance of several amendments to its text based on the Declaration of Principles on Equality.

May 20, 2009: Met with representatives of UKCAE (the UK Council on Access and Equality) to explore inclusion of ERT in the Council.
