

PRESS RELEASE

2009 Citizenship Prize awarded to Kif Kif and Territoires de la Mémoire

Brussels, 17 November 2009. The Foundation P&V today awarded its 2009 Citizenship Prize to two Belgian associations that play an exemplary role in combating intolerance and discrimination in Belgium. The mission of Les Territoires de la Mémoire (in the French-speaking community) and Kif Kif (in the Flemish Community) is to increase public awareness, educate and act.

Since 2005, the Citizenship Prize has been awarded to individuals, campaigns or organisations - Belgian or foreign - that are dedicated to achieving an open, democratic and tolerant society.

Foundation P&V Citizenship Prize

Fadéla Amara (*Ni Putes Ni Soumises* - "Neither Whores nor Submissives") and Job Cohen (Mayor of Amsterdam) were the first to be awarded the Citizenship Prize in 2005.

The 2006 winners were the singer, writer and plastic arts creator Wannas Van de Velde and the film-makers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne.

Khady Koita, a Senegalese human rights activist and the chairwoman of the European network for the prevention and eradication of female genital mutilation and author of the book *Les Mutilées* (Mutilated Women) won the Prize in 2007.

The Prize was awarded to two women in 2008: Jeanne Devos, a human rights activist and founder of the National Domestic Workers Movement (MDWM) and Simone Susskind, chairwoman of the Actions in the Mediterranean Association.

This year, the jury decided to award the prize not to two well-known people, but to two Belgian associations, in recognition of their work in fostering intercultural dialogue.

Education in tolerance: a priority for the two 2009 prizewinners

The jury for the Foundation P&V Citizenship Prize was comprised of around thirty well-known figures from the economic, cultural, social and media spheres from all over the country. This year, the jury decided to reward two associations which, based on initiatives by committed citizens, use their actions to spread the values of tolerance, solidarity and dialogue.

All too often in the past, times of crisis have led to an increase in extremism and a withdrawal behind ethnic barriers.

The jury has therefore focused on those who suffer social exclusion because of their cultural or social origin.

Les Territoires de la Mémoire and Kif Kif undertake practical campaigns aimed at providing information on, raising awareness of, and educating on citizenship; their innovative methods, which serve as an example to others, are aimed at young people and the public at large.

Kif Kif is an intercultural platform. Its mission is to raise awareness among the public and the authorities on the fate of minority groups; it uses innovative methods of communication to inform, raise awareness and change attitudes to make different cultural groups more tolerant of each other. The Antwerp-based association has stations

in Brussels and Ghent, and is active throughout the Flemish Community. It has a dynamic, effective and professional approach to fighting inequality. The association calls on volunteers and mainly targets young people.

Kif Kif encourages the inclusion and integration of minorities through its campaigns and its many channels of communication, including its striking website. For instance, it highlights the talents and creativity of young people of various origins by means of its annual Kif Kif Awards, and arranges training programmes and employment bursaries to encourage the employment of young people from different origins.

Les Territoires de la Mémoire (Centre for Education on Tolerance and Resistance) aims to prevent and avoid extremism in our society and fights all forms of xenophobia and racism. The study of history, and more particularly the rise of extremism in Europe in the 20th century, and developing critical faculties are two essential factors in making our society more tolerant and humane. The association keeps alive memories of the past, while remaining open to the present and focusing on the future.

It has a highly professional approach and arranges top-rate exhibitions, publications, educational material and campaigns. Upstream, the team is involved in educational and awareness programmes in the French Community and Europe (as part of the FECM initiative).

The two winning associations will receive a sculpture by the Belgian artist, Fabienne Claesen, to mark the occasion.

The Foundation P&V

The Foundation P&V has been organising projects aimed at encouraging active citizenship and social integration since 1995. An initiative of the P&V Group, a pioneer in the social economy in Belgium that provides financial support, the Foundation P&V works entirely independently of its patron.

Internet links

- *Les Territoires de la Mémoire*: www.territoires-memoire.be
- Kif Kif: www.kifkif.be
- Foundation P&V: www.fondationpv.be
- The artist: www.ceramic-fabienne-claesen.be

Interviews and press enquiries

If you would like to interview leading figures from Territoires de la Mémoire or Kif Kif, please contact

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