

13 October, 2011

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

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(Call for Submissions) IFEX launches International Day to End Impunity poster contest

The International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) invites all to submit entries for the inaugural International Day to End Impunity 2011 poster contest with the purpose of drawing world's attention to impunity through these posters that depict impunity in some way.

IFEX is the most extensive community of leaders defending and promoting freedom of expression around the world. They share content, analysis and tools on free expression cases and trends, campaign on critical issues, and support collaboration to increase their members' effectiveness.

IFEX members chose the symbolic date of 23 November for the International Day to End Impunity because it's the anniversary of the Ampatuan massacre, the single deadliest day for journalists in recent history. The purpose of the day is to raise public awareness and showcase the work of organizations working for justice for those being persecuted for practicing their right to freedom of expression. This is the campaign's first year.

Deadline for Submissions: November 4, 2011

For more go to: http://www.ifex.org/international/2011/10/05/impunity_poster_contest/

(Call for Proposals) PRM seeks Funding Proposals for Benefiting Refugees and Refugee Returnees in Rwanda, the DRC, Tanzania and Uganda

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) under the Overseas Refugee Assistance Programs for Africa is currently seeking grant proposals for NGO programs benefiting refugees and refugee returnees in Rwanda, the DRC, Tanzania and Uganda.

Country Specific Funding Priorities and Guidelines

PRM will prioritize available funding for Tanzania, Rwanda, the DRC and Uganda as identified

below. All proposals should target beneficiaries as identified in collaboration with UNHCR and local authorities.

(1) Tanzania and Rwanda

Proposals for Tanzania should focus on protection for vulnerable groups and individuals in the remaining refugee camps in western Tanzania (Nyaragusu and Mtabila).

Proposals for Rwanda should focus on camp management, life-saving basic preventative and curative healthcare assistance (including reproductive health), water and sanitation, and/or gender based violence prevention and response for refugees.

While PRM does not discourage activities that also include the local host population along with refugees, proposals should concentrate on activities for refugees. At least 80% of beneficiaries must be refugees.

(3) Uganda

For Uganda proposals should focus on protection, including prevention of and response to gender based violence in urban refugee communities. At least 80% of beneficiaries must be refugees with the remainder being vulnerable individuals in host communities

Eligibility and Conditions

PRM will accept proposals from any NGO working in the above mentioned sectors although, given budgetary constraints, priority will be given to proposals from organizations that can demonstrate:

A working relationship with UNHCR, current UNHCR funding, and/or a letter of support from UNHCR for the proposed activities and/or overall country program (this letter should highlight the gap in services the proposed program is designed to address);

An established presence and a proven track record providing proposed assistance both in the sector and specified location;

Coordination with international organizations (IOs) and NGOs working in the same area or sector as well as local authorities;

A concrete implementation plan with well-conceived objectives and indicators that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and reliable, time-bound and trackable (SMART), have established baselines, and at least one outcome indicator per objective;

Funding Limits

For Rwanda PRM will consider proposals with budgets up to \$1,700,000. For DRC and Tanzania PRM will consider proposals with budgets up to \$600,000. For Uganda PRM will consider proposals with budgets up to \$300,000.

Deadline for Submissions: November 4, 2011.

For more go to: <http://www.state.gov/g/prm/175138.htm>

(Call for Nominations) Canada World Youth seeks Nominations for the 2012 Leadership Awards

World Youth (CWY) is currently seeking nominations for the 2012 Leadership Awards aimed at recognizing the excellent achievements of young Canadians and youth from around the world that are engaged in innovative initiatives promoting peace, intercultural understanding, and community and international Development. The candidates must be nominated by a third party.

CWY is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of young people that have a desire to become informed and active global citizens. CWY programs are designed to help youth experience the world for themselves, learn about other cultures and diverse Canadian communities while developing leadership and communication skills.

Award Objectives

- The leadership awards are created to honor the leadership actions and innovative thinking of engaged young people from Canada and around the world.
- By bestowing these Awards, CWY aims at recognizing the outstanding young leaders' involvement in transforming their communities. Their initiatives should have a direct contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.
- Social media and national and international youth networks working in partnership with CWY will ensure global publicity for these Awards.

Award Categories

- Outstanding Canadian CWY Alumni Award
- Outstanding Overseas CWY Alumni Award
- Youth Innovation Award
- Alumni awards are for those youth who have taken part in any of the Canada World Youth programs

Eligibility Criteria

- Nominations are accepted for the following eligible candidates:
- Be nominated by a third party, no self nominations are accepted.
- Be 35 years of age or under as of December 31, 2011.
- Be a CWY alumnus, if applying for one of the alumni awards.
- Have exhibited leadership and innovation.
- Have demonstrated a commitment to creating change in their community.
- Have contributed to an initiative with measurable impact in the community.
- Be available to take part in presentations and public engagement activities in 2 to 3 Canadian cities in April-May 2012.

What do the Prizes include?

A cash prize of \$3,000 and a plaque of recognition will be awarded to each of the three laureates. The prize is to be used to support the cause or the project of a non-profit organization of the laureate's choice.

Deadline for Submission: December 12, 2011

For more go to: <http://canadaworldyouth.cwy-jcm.com/programs/awards>

(Call for Entries) Development Gateway seeks Entries for the Photo Contest depicting Empowerment and People Finding Solutions

Development Gateway is inviting photographers around the world to submit photo entries along with stories of people in developing countries working to build a better world.

Development Gateway is a non-profit organization providing information solutions to the people on the front lines of international development work. The people using their solutions and tools include government policy makers deciding how to invest scarce resources, aid workers building schools and clinics, and citizens who want to have a voice in the development process empowering them to be more effective.

Categories of Entries

Development Gateway is looking for images of empowerment and people finding solutions. The photographs should be related to one of the following:

- Images related to the thematic areas of Development Gateway's work: Governance; Knowledge and networking; and Transparency and accountability
- People using information and communications technologies
- People making something, selling wares, working in a field, constructing a building or type of infrastructure, teaching, learning, or interacting with each other
- Abstract images representing hope, the future, or capacity building

Eligibility and Conditions

This photo competition is open to all photographers above the age of 13 years of age, except employees of Development Gateway and their immediate families.

Each entry must include a brief written statement (100 words maximum) explaining how that image is representative of development. Images will be judged on technical excellence, composition, overall impact, and artistic merit.

Deadline for Submissions: November 18, 2011

For more go to: <http://www.developmentgateway.org/news/photo-contest>

Stateless Children: Denied the Right to Have Rights

The blight of statelessness affects an estimated 12 million people around the world. But it is in the lives of an estimated 5 million stateless children that the injustice is often most painfully evident. A stateless child grows up in the shadows, perhaps excluded from schooling, or from proper medical care, and pushed to the edge of society. A stateless child is more easily exploited and abused, and must learn to live without the protection of a government that may opt to deport or imprison without redress.

Statelessness is often born of discrimination. And yet, this is one human rights issue that rarely gets the urgent attention it needs.

Because most countries grant nationality on the basis of descent rather than place of birth, stateless parents hand down their own lack of legal status to their children.

What does it mean to be stateless?

A stateless person is not recognized as a citizen by any state. This is important because citizenship is the essential foundation of a person's legal identity. It is your right to have rights. Citizenship enables you not only to vote, hold public office, and exit and enter a country freely, but also to obtain housing, health care, employment, and education. Citizenship is necessary in order to live a decent human life. Stateless people are denied that right.

Who is stateless?

Statelessness is a problem of global dimension. It affects 15 million people around the world from the Kenyan Nubians in Africa to the Thailand Hill Tribes in Asia to Dominicans of Haitian-descent in the Caribbean. Although some stateless people are refugees, many have never crossed a border or left their country of birth. Yet around the world, although the problems related to statelessness may manifest themselves differently, at the root is a group of people who have been denied a legal identity.

Why should I care?

Stateless people suffer terrible personal consequences. Often they do not have the ability to go to school, access healthcare, or obtain a job. And stateless people are more vulnerable to violence and other rights violations.

Beyond the individual human toll, statelessness has social and political dimensions as well. Statelessness is often an underlying factor in civil conflicts, human rights violations, and insecurity among states. Armed conflict and insecurity do not stay confined to different parts of the world. Everyone has an interest in ensuring human security and citizenship for all.

What is the role of citizenship in an open society?

Citizenship is integral to an open society. Everyone—regardless of their legal status—has a right to fundamental conditions of human decency. Open society embraces the notion of human community, to which statelessness is antithetical. All persons have a right to participate in the communities where they live, and stateless persons are denied that right.

What can be done to solve this problem?

The world has a long way to go before the right to citizenship is assured. Too often the focus has been on the consequences of statelessness—human trafficking, discrimination, armed violence—rather than on eliminating statelessness itself. There are several things we can do in order to help make this right a reality.

We must document the problem. We still have only estimates of the number of stateless people around the world. Documentation can demonstrate the scope and significance of the problem, as well as the fact that statelessness appears to be growing.

We need to get existing institutions to act more effectively on behalf of the stateless, whether the U.S. Department of State—which only recently took on the task of including in its annual country reports on human rights practices the issues of citizenship or statelessness—or the

United Nations Human Rights Council, which should appoint a special rapporteur to report annually on the situation of the stateless around the world.

We need to do a better job at ensuring that national and international laws make it easier for people to become citizens and make it harder for states to deny or deprive people of citizenship.

For more information and pictures go to: http://www.soros.org/indepth/stateless/what_it_means.html

(Fact Sheet) Children's Right to a Nationality

This fact sheet explains some of the main causes and consequences of statelessness for children. It also gives a brief overview of the international legal framework protecting the child's right to a nationality.

Statelessness affects more than 12 million people around the world. Among those, the Open Society Justice Initiative estimates that as many as 5 million may be minors.

The consequences of lack of nationality are numerous and severe. Many stateless children grow up in extreme poverty and are denied basic rights and services such as access to education and health care. Stateless children's lack of identity documentation limits their freedom of movement. They are subject to arbitrary deportations and prolonged detentions, are vulnerable to social exclusion, trafficking and exploitation—including child labor. Despite its importance, children's right to a nationality rarely gets the urgent attention it needs.

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.php>. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.