

1 June, 2011

Dear Friends,

This week the Newsflash! is about community empowerment, specifically, what communities and their organizations can do to strengthen their capacities.

The *Community Empowerment Collective* is a nonprofit organization that creates, translates, and makes accessible free trainings and community empowerment methodologies. The resources are available in multiple languages. They come with a dictionary of key words to assist with unknown vocabulary.

We hope that the following will provide you with useful information and resources.

Sincerely,

Firelight Team

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- (Call for Applications) Strengthening the Voices of Reproductive Health Champions Workshop
- (Call for Applications) UNHR Fellowship Programme
- (Call for Nominations) Nominations Open for Human Rights Defenders Tulip
- (Call for Applications) Fellowship Opportunity for Advocates Aimed at Implementing HIV Prevention Related Activities
- (Call for Submissions) World Summit Youth Awards 2011
- (Resources) The Community Empowerment Collective

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(Call for Applications) Strengthening the Voices of Reproductive Health Champions Workshop

The goal of the Strengthening the Voices of Women Champions for Family Planning and Reproductive Health workshop is to strengthen host country and U.S. leadership and support for family planning and reproductive health programs by raising awareness of the importance of these issues in priority countries and among key U.S. communities. The two-week workshop is intensive and highly participatory and is designed to:

- \* Enhance knowledge of key national and global family planning and reproductive health issues,

- \* Increase understanding of the US policy environment related to family planning and reproductive health,
- \* Strengthen capacity to develop and deliver strategic messages to policymakers in host countries and in the United States,
- \* Enhance messaging and communication skills, and
- \* Develop country action plans for mobilizing other groups in country to target policy makers with messages prioritizing family planning and reproductive health.

#### Eligible Countries

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Malawi and Tanzania

#### Application Criteria

Applicants who meet the following criteria will be considered for selection:

- \* Working in civil society, government and/or political institutions,
- \* Working to promote access to gender-sensitive, quality family planning and reproductive health services at national, sub-national or community levels,
- \* Minimum 5 – 7 years experience in family planning and reproductive health programs or advocacy,
- \* Demonstrated commitment to promoting women’s leadership in family planning and reproductive health,
- \* Proven ability to meaningfully engage with policymakers at local or national levels,
- \* Strong understanding of key national and global family planning and reproductive health issues,
- \* Available to participate in entire two-week program, and
- \* Proficient in English.

#### Apply

The application provides a detailed description of the workshop as well as eligibility criteria. The deadline for receipt of applications is June 15, 2011. For more information, go here: [http://www.cedpa.org/section/training/http\\_www\\_cedpa\\_org\\_section\\_training\\_reproductivehealthleadership](http://www.cedpa.org/section/training/http_www_cedpa_org_section_training_reproductivehealthleadership)

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#### (Call for Applications) UNHR Fellowship Programme

In the context of the International Year for People of African Descent, the Anti-Discrimination Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is launching a Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent from 10 October to 4 November 2011.

The Fellowship Programme will provide participants with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the United Nations Human Rights system and its mechanisms, with a focus on issues of particular relevance to people of African descent.

This will allow the fellows to better contribute to the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of Afro-descendants in their respective countries and communities.

Who can apply?

- The candidate must be an African descendant.
- The candidate must have a minimum of 4 years experience dealing with afro-descendant or minority issues.
- The candidate must be fluent in English.
- A letter of support from an afro-descendant organization or community.

Selection Process

In selecting the fellows, gender and ensuring a regional balance will be taken into account. All documents submitted must be in English.

Entitlements

The selected candidate is entitled to a stipend to cover accommodation, basic living expenses in Geneva, basic health insurance as well as a return economy class plane ticket.

Application

Interested candidates are requested to submit their application by email to: [africandescent@ohchr.org](mailto:africandescent@ohchr.org) or by fax to 004122-928 9050 with a cover letter clearly indicating "Application to the 2011 Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent" with the following documents:

- An application form
- A Curriculum Vitae
- A letter of motivation (maximum 1 page) in which the candidate will explain his/her motivation for applying, what he/she hopes to achieve through this fellowship and how he/she will use what they learn to promote the interests and rights of afro-descendants
- A letter of support from an organization/entity they are affiliated with.

The deadline to receive applications is 15 June 2011. Please note that only short-listed applicants will be contacted. For more information, go here: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/IYPADFellowshipProgramme.aspx>

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(Call for Nominations) Nominations Open for Human Rights Defenders Tulip  
The Dutch Government's Human Rights Defenders Tulip is given to an individual who has shown exceptional courage in protecting and promoting the rights of fellow human beings is now open for accepting nominations. Human rights defenders around the world are eligible to be nominated.

The award honours a man or woman who has shown particular courage in protecting and promoting the rights of his or her fellow citizens. Anyone can nominate a candidate. The winner will be chosen by an independent jury. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will present the award in December.

The winner will receive a bronze statuette of the Human Rights Defenders Tulip and possible funding for a human rights project. Winners are also invited to participate in a tour of Europe, which will put them in contact with people relevant to their activities.

Only individuals are eligible for the award, not organisations. Their daily work must involve the peaceful protection or promotion of human rights, and they must stand to benefit from the recognition and visibility entailed in winning the award.

Nominations close on 15 June 2011. For more information, go here: <http://www.fundsforngos.org/awards-and-prizes/nominations-open-human-rights-defenders-tulip/> - ixzz1NydygrdO

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(Call for Applications) Fellowship Opportunity for Advocates Aimed at Implementing HIV Prevention Related Activities

AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention invites applications for 2012 Advocacy Fellowship project. The project is aimed at supporting the emerging and mid-career advocates to design and implement advocacy projects focused on biomedical HIV prevention research and related implementation activities in their countries and communities. Advocacy Fellows carry out their projects while based at Host Organisations that are active partners in the Fellowship process.

Goal of the HIV Prevention Research Advocacy Fellowship

The overall goal of the Advocacy Fellowship is to expand the capacity of civil society advocates and organisations to monitor, support, and help shape biomedical HIV prevention research and related implementation worldwide. The Advocacy Fellowship is guided by the belief that effective, sustainable advocacy grows out of work that reflects organisational and individual interests and priorities.

Fellowship Support

The Fellowship provides:

- \* Mentoring and capacity building
- \* Connection to a global network
- \* Opportunities for networking and information sharing
- \* A small stipend and technical assistance
- \* Financial support and technical assistance
- \* Overhead to the Host Organisation to cover costs associated with hosting a Fellow.

Eligibility:

The HIV Prevention Research Advocacy Fellowship seeks applicants who are:

- Emerging or mid-career community leaders and advocates involved or interested in HIV prevention research advocacy.
- Individuals with some experience or education in the areas of HIV and AIDS, public health, medicine, international development, women's rights, communications, or advocacy
- Based in developing countries where biomedical HIV prevention clinical research is planned or ongoing or medical male circumcision for HIV prevention is being introduced.
- Able to collaborate with English-speaking mentors. Applications are encouraged from all countries where such research is ongoing or being rolled out; however the Advocacy Fellow and key staff at his/her organisation must be able to communicate with AVAC staff in English.

Deadline for submitting the application is July 15, 2011

For more information and details, go here: <http://www.avac.org/ht/d/sp/i/29971/pid/29971>

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(Call for submissions) World Summit Youth Awards 2011

Registration is now open for World Summit Youth Awards 2011 that are open to young people (under the age of 30 years from any of the UN member states) that have developed any sort of innovative project or product using information

technology aimed at helping their community.

You may be a developer of website or mobile apps, e-content writer, journalists or writer, application designer, technologist or anyone contributing to address poverty, protecting the environment, sharing knowledge and empowering young people.

If the answer is yes, then opportunity has come your way in getting your efforts recognized in the form of WSYA 2011 Award.

### WSYA Award Highlights

The Youth Award is not a cash award. The reward for winners is to be recognized on a world stage, to be invited to the winners' events, to be able to connect with each other and discuss with renowned experts in the field of ICT for Development. Last year, winner's events took place in New York, USA.

The WSYA selects and promotes best practice in e-Content. It demonstrates young people's potential to create outstanding digital contents and serves as a platform for people from all UN member states to work together in the efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These Awards are offered in six categories:

1 – Fight Poverty, Hunger & Disease 2 – Education 3 – Power 2 Women 4 – Create your Culture 5 – Go Green 6 – Pursue Truth

The project or product may be in any of the official languages of candidate's country.

### Organizers of the Award

The WSYA is organized as a follow up activity of the World Summit on Information Society and its action plan towards the year 2015. The Youth Award is organized by the World Summit Award Network for the fourth time after 2005, 2009 and 2010. It is promoted in all UN member states through the networks of the World Summit Award (WSA) the UN Global Alliance for ICT, other participating UN Organizations and Agencies, governments and NGOs, youth organizations and all those committed to making a real difference in the achievement of the MDGs.

The WSYA Team is based at the International Centre for New Media (ICNM), an independent non-profit organization based in Salzburg, Austria. Tentative last date for getting registered for this award is Mid July, 2011. For further information, please visit the link.

<http://www.fundsforngos.org/awards-and-prizes/world-summit-youth-awards-2011-open-registration/> - ixzz1NyglosNP

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(Resources) The Community Empowerment Collective

Main website: <http://www.scn.org/cmp/collect.htm>

All training modules: <http://www.scn.org/cmp/modules/a-mod.htm>

*1) Resource: Gender Awareness and Balance*

Encouraging equal opportunity for males and females

Gender is not about women; it is about relations between men and women. Raising awareness about gender issues, and promoting gender balance are both essential and integral parts of community mobilizing, management training, poverty reduction, capacity development, income generation and empowerment.

This module concentrates on assisting the mobilizer in developing techniques for both raising awareness and promoting balance. The core document describes the issues (cultural, economic, political and human rights) and guides the mobilizer in custom designing appropriate strategies. Others will be useful as training aids.

by Phil Bartle, PhD

For detailed information and specific methodologies, click on the following links:

*Gender; Notes for the Mobilizer* <http://www.scn.org/cmp/modules/gem-gen.htm>

*Gender Issues; Workshop Handout* <http://www.scn.org/cmp/modules/gen-par.htm>

*2) Resource: Mobilizing the Community*

Moving a community to take action

The empowerment of communities, the promotion of community participation, the mobilization cycle, the stimulation of self help, social change towards more self reliance, the fight to eliminate poverty — all these form a related set of interventions.

This series includes: Introduction to the Mobilization Intervention, The Mobilization Cycle, a workshop handout, The Mobilization Cycle, explained in more detail, The Mobilization Cycle Illustrations, To be a Mobilizer, a one-page

training handout indicating what is needed to be a mobilizer, and what a mobilizer does, *Unity Organizing*, explains that communities are not naturally unified, but the intervention needs to unite a community in order to make a communal decision, *Eating With Friends*, describes the role of food in empowering communities, *Training As Mobilizing*, describes the special methodology of training that includes organizing as well as skill transfer.

Relevant Documents for Mobilization:

*The Mobilization Cycle* This document outlines the mobilization cycle.

<http://www.scn.org/cmp/modules/mob-cyc.htm>

*The Mobilization Cycle Step by Step*

This document explores each stage in the mobilization cycle. Each stage is explained briefly. It should be read along with the Mobilization Cycle one-page workshop handout above.

<http://www.scn.org/cmp/modules/mob-cx.htm>

*To Be a Mobilizer*

This section explores how to be an effective mobilizer.

The role of the mobilizer is to mobilize a community into action so that it can become more empowered and self-reliant. There are many skills and roles that can increase the effectiveness of mobilizers.

<http://www.scn.org/cmp/modules/mob-be.htm>

*Unity Organizing*

This section explores how to promote and encourage unity.

All communities have divisions and disputes within them. They might be based on religion, class, clan, language, ethnic differences and other factors. These divisions make it difficult for communities to come together to make decisions or to agree on a problem to be solved. Therefore, it is important to be able to bring the various groups together to promote and encourage unity.

<http://www.scn.org/cmp/modules/mob-uni.htm>

*Training as Mobilization*

This section explores the methodology of using training to mobilize.

The word "training" is often assumed to be only the transfer of skills to trainees. In community management training, it goes much further; it includes encouragement, mobilizing the group to take action and organizing to increase capacity and strength.

<http://www.scn.org/cmp/modules/mob-trn.htm>

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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](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).