

29 March, 2011

Dear Friends,

In this week's Newsflash! we have provided information regarding the sensitive, yet important topic of commercial sex work in Africa. The issue of commercial sex workers is not specific to just Africa, but is pervasive around the world. The majority of sex workers are vulnerable girls and women who enter the sex industry, sometimes out of choice, but most often out of desperation. As a result, many of these women and girls become outcasts in their society, and rarely receive the support and rehabilitation they need. This Newsflash! includes articles and toolkits regarding this issue as well as women's rights in general. We hope you will find these resources useful in your work.

Sincerely,

Firelight Team

"There is one fundamental truth that should guide any action or inaction, and this is the fact that both men and women in transactional sex are simply human beings with social rights and ties" - Richard Tiemoko, *Sexuality in Africa Magazine*

- (Call for nominations) BBC World Challenge 2011 for grassroots projects
- (Call for Grant Proposals) African Women's Development Fund
- (Call for Nominations) Skoll Foundation Awards for Social Entrepreneurship
- (Call for Proposals) UN Habitat Urban Youth Fund
- (Article) AfricaFiles.com: Sex, Money & Power- Considerations for African Women's Empowerment
- (Article) AllAfrica.com: South Africa: Marching for Sex Worker Rights
- (Resource) Sexuality in Africa Magazine
- (Toolkit) Freedom of Information (FOI) and Women's Rights in Africa
- (Toolkit) WHO Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluation of Interventions for Sex Workers

(Call for nominations) BBC World Challenge 2011 for grassroots projects

World Challenge 2011 is a competition organised by BBC World News Limited ("BBC World News") and Newsweek, aimed at finding projects or small businesses from around the world that have shown enterprise and innovation at a grassroots level ("Competition"). We want to hear from our viewers about the social entrepreneurs who are making a difference without costing the earth. It could be you or someone you know.

For more information, go here: http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/the_rules

(Call for Grant Proposals) African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) calls for grant applications

AWDF is a grant-making foundation that supports women's groups in Africa working towards women's empowerment. They offer grants to groups that promote women's human rights, political participation, peace building, health and reproductive rights, economic empowerment, and/or HIV/AIDS. AWDF accepts applications on a rolling basis.

For more information go here: <http://www.awdf.org/the-process/grant-making>.

(Call for Nominations) Skoll Foundation awards for Social Entrepreneurship

The Skoll Foundation call for nominations is looking for organization's led by social entrepreneurs with clear vision and leadership ability, who are working to bring about greater economic and social equity, environmental sustainability, or improved health. Application deadline is April 27, 2011.

For more information, go to: <http://www.skollfoundation.org/about/skoll-awards/>.

(Call for Proposals) UN Habitat Urban Youth Fund

UN Habitat Urban Youth Fund is looking to support youth-led projects implemented in cities and towns in developing countries. The Fund seeks to provide assistance to youth-led NGOs that implement projects that will contribute to sustainable urbanization in the developing world. Application deadline is April 15, 2011

For more information go to: <http://www.unhabitatyouthfund.org/Default.aspx>.

(Article) AfricaFiles.com: *Sex, Money & Power: Considerations for African Women's Empowerment*

This article written by Danai Mupotsa a Zimbabwean who uses her first hand experience of growing up to Africa, considers the question of women's economic empowerment and sexuality. Mupotsa cites a range of issues, from sexually violent relationships to polygamy to HIV/AIDS, all contributors to the struggle for women's empowerment.

To read the article, visit:

<http://www.africafiles.org/atissuezine.asp?issue=issue7#art3>

(Article) South Africa: Marching for Sex Worker Rights

AllAfrica.com published an article describing the events that took place on International Sex Worker Rights Day, this past March 3. South African sex workers marched to rally support to decriminalize the profession of sex work and to prevent abuse.

Click here to read more: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201103071386.html>.

(Resource) Sexuality in Africa Magazine

For several article pertaining to sex work and sexuality in Africa please visit the Sexuality in Africa Magazine website. The website includes fascinating articles that discuss the commoditization of sex, the sale of womanhood among sex workers, and reports of sexual abuse within Nigerian brothels.

Please click this link to read:

<http://www.arsrc.org/publications/sia/sep08/index.htm>

(Toolkit) Freedom of Information (FOI) and Women's Rights in Africa

The African Women's Development and Communication Network created this toolkit to serve as a guide for groups and organizations in Africa in regards to freedom of information and knowledge. The toolkit provides case studies from Cameroon, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, and Zambia.

To access toolkit click this link:

http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_advocacy_item.php?id=40.

(Toolkit) WHO toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluation of Interventions for Sex Workers

The World Health Organization (WHO) toolkit is designed to outline the various components of interventions with sex workers and effective strategies and approaches for outreach programs.

To learn more, go

to: http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Publications_ToolKitMandE.pdf

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.