

February 2, 2012

Dear Friends,

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

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

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(Call for Applications) Firelight Foundation is Now Accepting Letters of Inquiry for Lesotho, Malawi, and Tanzania!

(Call for Applications) Reed Elsevier Environmental Challenge

(Call for Nominations) Women's Link Worldwide invites Nominations for the Gender Justice Uncovered Awards

(Call for Papers) African Center for Peace Building invites Papers for Presentation at Peace Conference

(Resource) Protection Children from Violence, Abuse, and Neglect

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(Call for Applications) Firelight Foundation is Now Accepting Letters of Inquiry for Lesotho, Malawi, and Tanzania!

#### LETTER OF INQUIRY TEMPLATE

If your organization is a charitable organization working with orphans and vulnerable children based in the Northern Region of Malawi, Lesotho, or Tanzania we invite you to send a "letter of inquiry" and provide us with basic information about your organization. Please ensure we have complete contact information for your organization.

We accept any kind of written submission. We currently accept applications in English, Chichewa, French, Kinyarwanda, Sesotho, and Swahili. Please limit your letter to three pages.

Deadline for Submission: February 15, 2012.

For more go to: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/application-information.php>

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(Call for Applications) Reed Elsevier Environmental Challenge

Reed Elsevier has launched the Reed Elsevier Environmental Challenge for individuals or organizations operating in the not-for-profit and for-profit sectors. This Challenge is part of the corporate social responsibility of Reed Elsevier, which is a world leading provider of professional information solutions in the Science, Medical, Risk, Legal and Business sectors.

The Reed Elsevier Environmental Challenge will be awarded to the two projects that best demonstrate how they can provide sustainable access to safe water where it is presently at risk and/or access to improved sanitation. Projects must have clear practical applicability, address identified need, and advance related issues such as health, education, or human rights.

The Challenge will be awarded in November 2012 and there will be a \$50,000 prize for the first place entry and a \$25,000 prize for the second place entry.

Applicants will be offered access to relevant Reed Elsevier products that can help in the preparation of their submissions between November and March 2012. Winning projects will be highlighted in the Reed Elsevier journal Water Research.

Applications will be reviewed against the Reed Elsevier Environmental Challenge criteria by the Reed Elsevier Environmental Challenge steering group, comprised of relevant internal and external water and sanitation specialists.

Deadline for Submission: April 15, 2012

For more go

to: <http://www.reedelsevier.com/corporateresponsibility/environmental-challenge/Pages/Home.aspx>

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(Call for Nominations) Women's Link Worldwide invites Nominations for the Gender Justice Uncovered Awards

Women's Link Worldwide is currently inviting nominations for the Gender Justice Uncovered Awards that aim to underline the decisions given by the court, affecting the gender equity positively or negatively. People from across the world are invited to nominate their cases and propose statements or decisions made by judges, prosecutors, public defenders, public representatives, members of United Nations committees, or magistrates affecting the gender equity.

More About the Gender Justice Uncovered Awards

Gender Justice Uncovered Awards were started by the international non-profit Women's Link Worldwide to highlight the fact that in every country, regardless of its political system, culture or religion, what judges and courts say has a tremendous influence on the sense of justice and in the day to day lives of people.

The awards highlight decisions or statements made in writing, in English or Spanish, by judges, courts, committees, administrative bodies, prosecutors,

defense attorneys, ombudsman officers, UN Committees, asylum boards or any other actor within a legal case, which have a positive or negative impact on gender equality, including those related to sexual and reproductive rights, gender violence and gender discrimination.

The three most sexist decisions will receive bronze, silver and gold Bludgeons; and the three decisions that best promote gender equality will receive bronze, silver and gold Gavels. The People's Choice Award will be granted to the case with the highest rating based on the votes by the public.

Some of the nominated cases will be added to Women's Link Worldwide's Gender Justice Observatory, which contains judicial decisions from around the world on issues related to gender and that can be accessed for free through the website.

#### The People's Choice Award

Not only the jury can choose the winning decision. Women's Link has created the category "People's Choice Award" for those decisions that obtain the most votes via the website, including a bludgeon and gavel award. The polls will be open to the public from November 15, 2011 until May 31, 2012 to determine the winners.

#### About Women's Link Worldwide

Women's Link Worldwide was founded in 2001 and has regional offices in Europe (Madrid, Spain) and Latin America (Bogotá, Colombia). Women's Link has 501(c)(3) status in the United States, foundation status in Spain and is legally recognized as a foreign non-profit organization in Colombia. Women's Link Worldwide is working to ensure that gender equality is a reality around the world. With this objective in mind, the organization strives to advance women's rights through the implementation of international human rights standards and strategic work with the courts, including strategic litigation.

Last date for submitting the nominations is April 30, 2012.

For more go

to: [http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/wlw/new.php?modo=detalle\\_prensa&dc=331&lang=en](http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/wlw/new.php?modo=detalle_prensa&dc=331&lang=en)

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(Call for Papers) African Center for Peace Building invites Papers for Presentation at Peace Conference

African Center for Peace Building (AFCOPB) will organize the Peace Festival from June 30 – July 7, 2012 at Ghana, West Africa. During this event, AFCOPB will also host the International Peace Conference from June 30 – July 1, 2012. AFCOPB is currently inviting papers from interested individuals for presentation

during the conference. This is an excellent opportunity for scholars and relevant stakeholders to present papers based on the theme of the conference.

Conference Theme: "Promoting global culture of peace in the 21st Century"

The conference shall provide an interactive opportunity for participants from diverse background to discuss and evaluate:

- the state of democracy,
- commitment of governments to develop practical and achievable youth policies,
- how the international community responses to conflict and humanitarian situations

The conference will provide an opportunity for the presentation of scholarly papers on the realizing global peace, youth development, democracy, protection of human rights and poverty reduction on especially how these ideas can be localized in the communities. The conference will also provide an international mandate for the conference organizers to petition governments and international agencies and other stakeholders on matters of national and international concerns as may be discussed at the conference.

Sub-themes

- developing the future non-violence democratic leaders
- youth and the internet in peace building
- the role of women in ensuring sustainable culture of peace and democracy
- corporate and economic peace: what it means in the 21st century
- internally generated fund raising strategies for NGOs, CBO, and Civic Societies
- achieving the MDGs: the role of NGOs, CBOs, Civic societies and the local communities

Requirements for Abstract Submission

- The abstract must be in English.
- Abstracts must be in prose, other formats will not be accepted.
- The maximum length of the abstract is 500 words.
- A title for the presentation must be included at the top of the abstract.

Interactive Presentations

An interactive presentation, for the purposes of this conference, is either a photographic presentation or a videographic presentation. Some researchers are easily adapted to this style, especially in the area of case studies and role plays. If your presentation is in this category, please indicate it in your proposal and also indicate what accessory it may require.

## Panel Sessions

Proposals for panel discussions must, in addition to satisfying the requirements for abstracts and paper presentations, include a 50 – 75 word rationale to appear in the conference programme, participant's name and their background information. The rationale should explain the importance of the topic and why it is of interest to participants

## Presentation Topics for the Conference

Presentations are invited from all areas of experience and case studies on youth development, democracy, peace education, poverty reduction and human rights by governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and Electoral Commissions among several others on a previous or on-going project.

Thematic Areas include and not limited to the following:

- Peace Education
- Youth non-violence and leadership
- Human Rights
- Agriculture and poverty reduction
- Building a culture of Peace and its sustainability
- Cultural/Ethnic Disputes

Last date for submitting the abstracts is May 30, 2012

For more go to: <http://africapeacefestival.org/2012/02/01/africa-local-summit/>

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(Resource) Protection Children from Violence, Abuse, and Neglect

A key responsibility of any organization working with children is to protect children from violence, abuse, and neglect. In many cases, organizations find it easy to uphold that responsibility when that abuse is perpetrated by stranger.

But child focused organizations often overlook in the need for internal organizational policy for protecting children, often called a child protection policy.

*As stated in the publication, Setting the Standard "Any NGO [or CBO] should have a child protection policy if its direct or indirect beneficiaries include individuals under the age of 18.'*

Organizations working with children have a moral and legal responsibility to protect children within their care. They must take active steps to ensure children's safety. Without developing clear plans, policies, and procedures organizations working with vulnerable children can end up hiring staff who are abusing children or fail to act in the face of abuse when they confront it in the communities they serve.

Child protection policies and procedures help to create 'child-safe' organizations. Child safe organizations can be identified by:

- a culture of knowledge and awareness of abuse and the signs of abuse
- staff-wide commitment to prevent intended and unintended harm of children
- provide staff with the knowledge, skills and guidance to do something when they see harm against children.
- create a space where children feel safe
- create a space where children can tell someone if they are abused
- respect children, listen to them and respect their voices
- provide children with the skills to act when they see harm against any child

Organizations without child protection policies, guidelines and systems can, without intending to, support abuse. Allegations of abuse by a member of staff, whether founded or unfounded, can destroy an organization's reputation.

Does your organization have a child protection policy?

If you have a child protection policy, does your staff, board and volunteers know what it means and what they must do if they find a case of child abuse?

If you have a child protection policy, is your organization living up to the standards set in the policy?

In today's Newsflash, we provide some resources on creating child protection policies.

**Child Protection Policy Toolkit:** Stage one of a six-part toolkit that guides an organization through a series of exercises to develop an understanding of child protection and develop a child protection policy.

The entire toolkit can be found on the following website <http://www.childhope.org.uk/article.asp?id=587>

**Setting the Standard:** Lays out a set of 11 standards for child-focused organizations. The publication includes a tool for an internal audit on child protection.

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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).