

Dear Friends,

In this episode of the Firelight Newsflash! there are several resources for funding opportunities. Also, we have included several publications on the issue of violence towards children. Please spread these resources to anyone you feel will benefit.

Enjoy your read,
Firelight Team

--Funds for NGOs

--Letter of date extension for Children's Peace Prize 2010

--Call for Proposals: HIV Young Leaders Fund

--Call for Nominations: The World of Children Annual Awards (\$ 25,000 to 50,000 Cash Grants)

--Call for Applications: Health Innovation Challenge Fund

--Call for Applications: BBC World Challenge 2010 Grants for Grass-root Level Projects

--Op ed: In Africa, a step backward on human rights by Desmond Tutu

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Funds for NGO's

Website for grants, resources, and funding opportunities for NGOs.

www.fundsforngos.org/#axzz0kuq8Yuou

Dear sir, madam,

I hope this email finds you well. Earlier this year we have sent you an e-mail with a request to nominate a child for the Children's Peace Prize 2010. This prize is awarded annually to a child, whose courageous or otherwise extraordinary efforts have made an impact on behalf of the Rights of the Child.

With this e-mail we would like to inform that after several requests we have decided to extend the deadline to send in nominations until May 1st, 2010.

We would be very appreciative, if you could send us your nominations before this date. May I also request you to please send the information to your contacts/network so that they also have the opportunity to nominate a child.

Attached to this e-mail you will find the nominating form for 2010 and information about the International Children's Peace Prize. If you are interested to receive our newsletter on the Children's Peace Prize 2009, please do let me know via this address.

If you have any questions or comments, please let us know. We will be glad to assist you in any way we can.

Warm regards,

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HIV Young Leaders Fund: Request for Proposals (Even unregistered groups can apply for funding support)

Deadline: 1 May 2010

All Countries

The HIV Young Leaders Fund is seeking grant proposals from NGOs to address the needs of young people most-affected by HIV in their communities, including young people living with HIV.

More information here: www.tidesfoundation.org/grants-impact/open-rfps/hiv-young-leaders-fund/index.html

Call for Nominations: The World of Children Annual Awards (\$ 25,000 to 50,000 Cash Grants)

The World of Children Annual Awards Program is a global recognition and funding program that “exclusively focuses on a broad range of children’s issues such as health including hunger and nutrition, education, safety and human rights” It works to improve the lives of children worldwide by identifying and providing recognition to those extraordinary individuals who work at the ground-level on behalf of children in need.

More information here: www.worldofchildren.org/index.php/awards

Applications open for Health Innovation Challenge Fund's timely new theme

Applications are open for the latest theme of the Health Innovation Challenge Fund (HICF), targeting time-critical interventions.

The HICF is targeting opportunities that can deliver a healthcare outcome within a timescale of around three to five years from the date of the funding decision. The deadline for preliminary applications is 4 May 2010.

More information here: www.wellcome.ac.uk/News/2010/News/WTX058825.htm

BBC World Challenge 2010 Grants for Grass-root Level Projects

BBC and Shell have launched the World Challenge 2010 competition to identify and award “projects or small businesses from around the world that have shown enterprise and innovation at a grassroots-level.” The winner of the challenge will receive a grant of US \$20,000 and the second and their finalist will receive a grant of US \$10,000. The deadline to submit nominations is 13 June 2010.

More information here: www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/

In Africa, a step backward on human rights

By Desmond Tutu

Friday, March 12, 2010; A19

Hate has no place in the house of God. No one should be excluded from our love, our compassion or our concern because of race or gender, faith or ethnicity -- or because of their sexual orientation. Nor should anyone be excluded from health care on any of these grounds. In my country of South Africa, we struggled

for years against the evil system of apartheid that divided human beings, children of the same God, by racial classification and then denied many of them fundamental human rights. We knew this was wrong. Thankfully, the world supported us in our struggle for freedom and dignity. It is time to stand up against another wrong.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people are part of so many families. They are part of the human family. They are part of God's family. And of course they are part of the African family. But a wave of hate is spreading across my beloved continent. People are again being denied their fundamental rights and freedoms. Men have been falsely charged and imprisoned in Senegal, and health services for these men and their community have suffered. In Malawi, men have been jailed and humiliated for expressing their partnerships with other men. Just this month, mobs in Mtwapa Township, Kenya, attacked men they suspected of being gay. Kenyan religious leaders, I am ashamed to say, threatened an HIV clinic there for providing counseling services to all members of that community, because the clerics wanted gay men excluded.

Uganda's parliament is debating legislation that would make homosexuality punishable by life imprisonment, and more discriminatory legislation has been debated in Rwanda and Burundi.

These are terrible backward steps for human rights in Africa.

Our lesbian and gay brothers and sisters across Africa are living in fear.

And they are living in hiding -- away from care, away from the protection the state should offer to every citizen and away from health care in the AIDS era, when all of us, especially Africans, need access to essential HIV services. That this pandering to intolerance is being done by politicians looking for scapegoats for their failures is not surprising. But it is a great wrong. An even larger offense is that it is being done in the name of God. Show me where Christ said "Love thy fellow man, except for the gay ones." Gay people, too, are made in my God's image. I would never worship a homophobic God.

"But they are sinners," I can hear the preachers and politicians say. "They are choosing a life of sin for which they must be punished." My scientist and medical friends have shared with me a reality that so many gay people have confirmed, I now know it in my heart to be true. No one chooses to be gay. Sexual orientation, like skin color, is another feature of our diversity as a human family. Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, and yet there is so much diversity among his people? Does God love his dark- or his light-skinned children less? The brave more than the timid? And does any of us know the mind of God so well that we can decide for him who is included, and who is excluded, from the circle of his love?

The wave of hate must stop. Politicians who profit from exploiting this hate, from fanning it, must not be tempted by this easy way to profit from fear and misunderstanding. And my fellow clerics, of all faiths, must stand up for the principles of universal dignity and fellowship. Exclusion is never the way forward on our shared paths to freedom and justice.

The writer is archbishop emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

Article here: www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/11/AR2010031103341.html

Malawi: A mother's race against time

MATERNAL MORTALITY

One woman dies every minute during childbirth, yet almost all of these deaths are preventable.

In 2001, the UN set itself the goal of slashing maternal mortality by 75% by 2015, but it is nowhere near meeting that target.

Health ministers from around the world are meeting in Ethiopia to work out how to make up for lost ground.

The BBC is publishing a series of reports to mark the occasion.

In a country where a staggering number of women die in child birth, the BBC's Karen Allen discovers one Malawian village where a novel solution - a bicycle ambulance - has apparently helped to wipe out the problem.

Nearly half of all children in Malawi are born without the assistance of a trained health specialist.

They rely instead on traditional birth attendants like Dailes Silage, the wise old woman of Mangochi village.

She often gets summoned at the last minute when it is too late to make the journey to hospital.

But she is not medically trained and her "labour suite" is a spartan mud hut with a mat on the floor for a bed.

She delivers about seven babies a month and she says not a single woman has died in her care.

Nevertheless, she admits it is far from ideal.

"The main problem is that the community here doesn't have the money to hire a car to get to the nearest hospital," she says.

"And traditional birth attendants usually care more about the women than the staff at the hospital."

Nationwide, some 16 Malawian women die every day in childbirth or from related complications - the second-highest figure in Africa behind Sierra Leone. A woman is 14 times more likely to die in childbirth in Malawi than in a developed country like the UK.

Malawi is not a conflict zone and it has a stable government.

But much of the country suffers from high levels of illiteracy and grinding poverty. For those personally involved, like Emma Aliko, the consequences are devastating.

She cares for five grandchildren, aged between two and 10 years old, whose mother Mwalimi died just days after giving birth at home.

"It was a normal delivery... but three days later my daughter developed complications and died," she says.

It is almost certain that 30-year-old Mwalimi suffered from massive blood loss and an infection, which led to her death.

Her mother believes she would still be alive had she given birth in a hospital.

Mwalimi was the family's sole breadwinner.

Cultural battles

Yet despite childbirth in Malawi being like a medieval curse, the country's fortunes are slowly beginning to turn around.

" We have more Malawian doctors in Manchester than in the whole of Malawi " Nurses' union leader Dorothy Ngoma
Maternal deaths are now following a downward trend.

They currently stand at 807 deaths per 100,000 live births.

During a recent visit to the country, former Irish President Mary Robinson, now a prominent women's rights campaigner, praised the steps taken in Malawi.

"The first thing you need is political will," she said.

"We need to ensure women have access to emergency obstetric care, and we need to address cultural and legal battles that keep women as second-class citizens without a voice in their own country."

Malawi has gone some way to achieving some of this, although campaigners are warning against complacency.

In the village of Pitala, not far from the capital Lilongwe, maternal mortality rates have fallen to zero, according to anecdotal evidence given to the local UN agency.

Village chief Margaret Thole explains that they have started to tell people in the village of the importance of delivering in a hospital.

The message is reinforced with billboard-like inscriptions on the village trees.

But cultural norms dictate that in Malawi the first-born should be delivered at home.

"We can prepare for it early and the hospital can deal with any complications," she says.

"It's now the main role of the birth attendant to visit the women and deliver this message."

And with the closest health facility some 30km (18 miles) away, Pitala village now has its own bicycle ambulance to ferry patients to hospital.

It is not rocket science, but it is a start.

One of the biggest obstacles to forcing maternal death rates down is the shortage of specialist staff.

Malawi recently trained 200 doctors but now only 50 remain.

Most have been poached by countries that can offer them more pay.

Dorothy Ngoma, head of the main nursing union in Malawi, says countries like Britain have to take some responsibility for Malawi's appalling record on maternal deaths.

"We have more Malawian doctors in Manchester than in the whole of Malawi," she says.

"There are more than 200 of them. Imagine if those doctors came back and spread out across our hospitals here, how many women's lives would be saved?"

"That is why Great Britain should be our primary target for support."

Africa is hopelessly behind on delivering on two of the key targets set out in the millennium development goals - reducing maternal deaths by 75% by 2015 and ensuring universal access to reproductive healthcare.

What is clear, though, from Malawi's bitter experience is that this is not simply a problem of its own making.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/8320781.stm>

Published: 2009/10/26 13:06:37 GMT

Maternal deaths 'fall worldwide'

By Helen Briggs

Health reporter, BBC News 12 April, 2010

Maternal deaths have fallen worldwide, from about half a million a year in 1980 to less than 350,000 in 2008, according to new data.

Countries such as China are making significant progress but there have been surprising increases in others, including the US, say researchers.

UK deaths are very low, but have not fallen in the past 20 years, the study, published in the Lancet, found.

Making childbirth safe for all women has long been an international goal.

But progress in some countries has been slow.

In the latest study, a team led by the University of Washington in Seattle, looked at data from thousands of observations of maternal deaths for 181 countries between 1980 and 2008.

They estimated there were 342,900 maternal deaths worldwide in 2008, down from 526,300 in 1980.

More than half of all maternal deaths were in only six countries in 2008 - India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

But some countries - including China, Egypt, Ecuador and Bolivia - had made significant progress towards achieving international goals on maternal mortality.

Lead author Dr Christopher Murray said: "There are still too many mothers dying worldwide, but now we have a greater reason for optimism than has generally been perceived."

He said finding out why a country such as Egypt has had "such enormous success in driving down the number of women dying from pregnancy-related causes could enable us to export that success to countries that have been lagging behind".

Mixed progress

The picture in high-income countries is less clear. One of the most surprising

findings was an increase in the number of expectant mothers dying in the US, from 12 in every 100,000 live births in 1990, to 17 in 2008.

The authors say the trend can be explained in part by changes in the way maternal deaths are recorded in the US.

In the UK, maternal mortality rates fell between 1980 and 1990, and then levelled off - which reflects the trend in most western European countries.

The rate per 100,000 live births in the UK is eight, with Germany and Spain at seven, and France at 10.

Commenting on the statistics, Cathy Warwick, General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives, said it was clear that around the world needless deaths can be avoided.

But she expressed concern that the UK rate - although very low - is not falling. She added: "It is possible that this is due to increasing levels of ill health amongst pregnant women and possibly to greater numbers of older women giving birth."

Lancet editor Dr Richard Horton said there was a dramatic difference between the latest estimates and those last reported by the UN.

He added: "Two decades of concerted campaigning by those dedicated to maternal health is working.

"Even greater investment in that work is likely to deliver even greater benefits.

Women have long delivered for society, and, slowly, society is at last delivering for women. This is a moment to celebrate - and accelerate."

Article here: news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8616250.stm

Report: Guidance for Effective Discipline
American Academy of Pediatrics 1998

This report is based on an American study for Pediatricians. Though raising children is a very subjective, culturally sensitive topic, this article may be helpful for certain parenting tips. Attached is the report in .pdf form.

More information

here: aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics;101/4/723

Report: Safe You and Safe Me
Save the Children

Attached is the Report and Booklet in .pdf form released from Save the Children in 2006. Below is part of the introduction:

"Notes for parents, teachers, caregivers and other grown-ups who work with younger children.

This book is especially written for girls and boys between the ages of 7 and 12 years. Older children, adolescents and grown-ups can also benefit from this book.

This book is not meant to equip children with personal safety skills to prevent abuse from happening to them. But it can help children to learn about the types of violence faced by children throughout the world and give them some ideas on how they can protect themselves from violence."

More information

here: [seap.savethechildren.se/South East Asia/Misc/Puffs/Safe-you-Safe-me/](http://seap.savethechildren.se/South_East_Asia/Misc/Puffs/Safe-you-Safe-me/)

Report: World Report on Violence Against Children

Attached is the United Nations Secretary-general's study on violence against children published in 2005. Below is the preface of the report:

Preface

Violence against children cuts across boundaries of geography, race, class, religion and culture. It occurs in homes, schools and streets; in places of work and entertainment, and in care and detention centres. Perpetrators include parents, family members, teachers, caretakers, law enforcement authorities and other children. Some children are particularly vulnerable because of gender, race, ethnic origin, disability or social status. And no country is immune, whether rich or poor.

The consequences of violence can be devastating. Above all, it can result in early death. But even children who survive must cope with terrible physical and emotional scars. Indeed, violence places at risk not only their health, but also their ability to learn and grow into adults who can create sound families and communities.

Violence against children is thus a major threat to global development and our work to reach the Millennium Development Goals. We will not achieve universal primary education unless children are safe in school. The spread of HIV/AIDS will not be halted until we also stop the violence against girls that helps to fuel the pandemic. Violence against children is also a major

obstacle to gender equality.

The impact of violence against children is fully and persuasively documented in the United Nations Study that is the subject of this book. The Study also outlines what must be done to confront this challenge. In that effort, States bear primary responsibility for preventing and responding to violence against children, and for upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other treaties, which guarantee girls and boys everywhere the right to live their lives free from violence. There must be action in all sectors – from health and education to labour and justice – and at all levels, local, national and international. But civil society groups and individual citizens also have important roles to play. The UN family, for its part, remains strongly committed to this work.

Violence against children is never justifiable. Nor is it inevitable. If its underlying causes are identified and addressed, violence against children is entirely preventable. This book and Study should help to improve our understanding of the problem, and help us devise strategies to confront it. I therefore commend the contents to a wide global audience.

Kofi Annan
United Nations Secretary-General
October 2006

More information and publications
here: www.crin.org/violence/search/closeup.asp?infoID=11348

Real empowerment for Zimbabwean youths
By Zweli Lunga
The Sunday Mail 11 April, 2010

IT is impossible to miss the euphoria that has gripped the country since the promulgation of the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act.

Initially, a significant amount of concern arose as to the validity and the legal status of these regulations. Why this was so is baffling when a first-year law student would know that regulations made in terms of a subsisting Act of Parliament derive their validity and legal status from that parent Act. Be that as it may, the message has been very clear – the regulations are valid and binding by virtue of the Indigenisation and Empowerment Act of 2008. Secondly, there have been some suggestions, contrary to the clear provisions of the regulations, that empowerment and indigenisation approaches must be

sector- and industry-specific, that some strategic sectors of the economy such as mining should have indigenisation benchmarks lower than the 51 percent provided in the regulations.

This would be unlawful and contrary to clear provisions of the law. Other than those sectors exempted by the current regulations, the benchmark for all indigenisation and empowerment deals is 51 percent until repealed expressly. This has not happened. Finally, as Honourable Minister Saviour Kasukuwere has so clearly enunciated in public, the indigenisation and empowerment drive is unstoppable and should go ahead regardless of what those opposed to it say. There are no apologies.

The above, however, is not the gist and purpose of this article, but forms an important basis of the discussion to follow.

There has been much rhetoric about empowerment and indigenisation over the last couple of months. While the crescendo calls for such are necessary, perhaps inevitable, we still have to move from rhetoric to practice, from talking to walking, and from preaching to pragmatism.

For in the end what will define the success of our country's economic independence will not be how hard or beautiful we talk, but whether we actually do what we say we want to do.

The hardest part of our drive to empower Zimbabweans will be the actual act of acquiring economic interests from foreign ownership and making it work for the future descendants of this country.

This is no easy task, one that cannot be achieved by the lily-livered. Over and above, the complex intricacies of taking over and marshalling giant enterprises comes the need to ensure that the stake and interest in such enterprises benefits the marginalised and disadvantaged in society, women, youth and the disabled. In fact, the last contention underlies the spirit of the regulations which seek to ensure that these disadvantaged groups have a significant stake in all empowerment deals in the country.

In that last respect, the Youth Empowerment and Indigenisation Taskforce has been set up as an ad hoc body to look into the interests of young people during this critical phase of empowerment.

The taskforce consists of representatives from young people in entrepreneurial initiatives ranging from mining, hospitality and tourism, among others.

The purpose of the taskforce is to ensure that within the timeframe specified in the regulations for concluding empowerment arrangements, young people will benefit at least 20 percent in the total of all empowerment deals concluded in the country.

While this 20 percent benchmark does not appear in the regulations, and is therefore not a legal requirement, it must be an express policy of both Government and private sector that 20 percent of empowerment arrangements benefit young people, with a bias for young women and young disabled peoples. Practically, this means that when companies table before the ministry the 51 percent stake for distribution to indigenous business people, at least 20 percent

must be shown to be benefiting business which are run and controlled by youths from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In fact, every company that presents a share distribution plan must be in a position to indicate how much of the stake will be held by organisations with youth interests.

Similarly, the youth benchmark sought by the taskforce should be reflected in such new mining concerns as Chiadzwa. Alongside women, youths should be prioritised in seeking partners to mine and benefit from the rich diamond resources of the Eastern Highlands.

Such benchmarks, given and adopted as policy directives, will ensure that young people are not left on the sidelines while the more established businesses benefit from empowerment deals.

This benchmark will also serve to highlight the impact and success of the empowerment drive in addressing economic conditions that are tilted in favour of those with resources.

Further, the 20 percent benchmark sought by young people in this country has implications on institutional and governmental capacity to ensure that young entrepreneurs have the resources to acquire stakes in big companies.

So long as there are no mechanisms designed to create and grow capacity, in terms of resources, of young businesses to acquire stakes in companies, the empowerment drive will just be another sham, a window-dressing exercise which in the end will only transfer wealth from the “haves to the haves”.

Poverty reduction as a national priority, in line with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals requires that resources be distributed in a manner that benefits the disadvantaged.

Our empowerment goals as a country must be seen in that light, as a means by which those without resources in the country are able to acquire wealth and improve their lives.

One of the glaring aspects of economic initiatives in Africa, and Zimbabwe, is that young businesses lack sufficient financial support to grow.

Almost always, all credit support initiatives require that borrowers furnish security to lenders, security which most young entrepreneurs struggle to obtain.

Similarly, empowerment deals will require huge financing and because most young people do not have ease of access to credit, it will be impossible, without necessary arrangements and support, for them to acquire significant stakes in existing companies.

This situation potentially reverses the gains of indigenisation and empowerment scored thus far. It is the purpose of the task force to see to it that such encumbrances and hindrances in the path of youth empowerment are removed. To address all these issues, the taskforce has organised a national youth empowerment indaba that will be held on April 30 in Harare.

The indaba will systematically address the drive to empower young people, looking at potential opportunities and threats, and how to deal with impediments to youth empowerment in the country.

IZweli Lunga is a member of the Youth Taskforce on Empowerment and Indigenisation. He is a lawyer by profession and can be contacted on: zwelilunga@hotmail.com.

Article here: www.sundaymail.co.zw/inside.aspx?sectid=17308&cat=8

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.