

Firelight Newsflash! 18 May 2009

Making a Free Website

No matter the size of your organization, having a website can be a valuable thing to have. While many websites are done by professionals and cost money, having and making a basic website can be both free and easy. There are many places on the Internet that will help you make your own free website, but one easier one is with Google. Go to <http://sites.google.com> (NO www!). You need to first create an account, and you can either use an email address you have already, or create a new Google email address. You don't have to have any special software or skills. The Google website has different set layouts or backgrounds for you to choose from, and all you need to do is type in the information about your organization and upload pictures. On the main page there is also a link to "find out more" where you can watch a short tutorial video or read instructions. (Also available in French)

Tips:

- If possible allow different people to participate in creating and maintaining your website.
- Remember to try and update your website regularly, especially your contact information.

Blogs

Having a blog is like having an online journal or diary. Some organizations also use a blog as their organization's main website, while others might only use it to document special projects or events. Blogs are most commonly divided up by dates, like pages, and they can be really good for telling the story of a trip or an event that takes place over a period of time. People often use a blog to share about time spent in another country, or about a project or conference they participated in. Really though, like any website, the sky is the limit!

An easy blog website:

www.blogger.com

GLOBAL: 'QUICK 'N' EASY GUIDE TO ONLINE ADVOCACY'

<http://onlineadvocacy.tacticaltech.org/>

This guide presents advocates with a collection of popular online services that can be used for advocacy quickly with little to no technical support. There are services for publishing photographs and video, for setting up a campaign blog or for using mobiles/cell phones to communicate in a group. An amazing amount of functionality and tools are available simply by connecting to the Internet and opening up a web-browser. You don't need to have a lot of technical expertise to try some of these. You also don't need much money, these services are offered at low- to no-cost.

The International Children's Peace Prize 2009

Nominations due 1 July 2009

Selection of the child

- Boy or a girl
- Between 12 and 18 years old
- This child must have a clear history of standing up and fighting for the rights of him/herself and other children, like the right to education, housing, health care, nutrition and attention. It is important that the child has an active approach in accomplishing this goal.
- Ability to travel abroad
- Feeling comfortable communicating to other people

Process

Any person or organisation may nominate children for review by the Expert Committee. The final date for nominating children for this year's Peace Prize is July 1, 2009. Please send, before July 1, 2009 the data of your nominee to info@childrenspeaceprize.org (please fill in the form attached). The official ceremony of the International Children's Peace Prize will be in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Background information

The KidsRights Foundation, based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, works in support of the world's most vulnerable children. Children on the edge of society, such as child prostitutes, orphans, child slaves and street kids. The focus is on five basic needs: education, housing, health care, nutrition and attention. KidsRights is a small organisation that is able to have a big impact on the lives of these children, by working efficiently and through a strong network. KidsRights supports local, smaller-scale aid projects that help these children directly.

For more information:

<http://www.childrenspeaceprize.org/en/>

<http://www.kidsrights.nl>

Every year KidsRights Foundation organises the International Children's Peace Prize. 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. The Children's Peace Prize was awarded so far posthumously to Nkosi Johnson from South Africa, to Om Prakash Gurjar from India, to Thandiwe Chama from Zambia and last year to Mayra Avellar Neves from Brazil. Mayra was awarded the Prize for her fight against the violence of police and drugs trade in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. When she was 15 years old, Mayra organized a March for Peace, which resulted in the police leaving the favela during school hours so that children could go to school in safety. The Children's Peace Prize includes prize money, which will be invested by KidsRights in specific projects related to the struggle for peace and children's rights of the winner. KidsRights would like to invite you to inform them about the children you meet and work with and whom you feel might be a good candidate for this Prize. The nomination form can be downloaded from the website www.childrenspeaceprize.org/en or requested at info@childrenspeaceprize.org. The final date for sending in the nomination form this year will be 1 July 2009.