

## Firelight Newsflash! 22 June 2009

### **Champions of Quality Education in Africa - Ashoka**

Deadline: 24 June 2009

The close of the entry period for the Champions of Quality Education in Africa competition is just around the corner, so make sure to enter online at: <http://www.changemakers.com/en-us/educationafrica>

You can also nominate yourself or someone you know today. We're looking to schools, teachers and administrators to find the best practices that are changing lives at the local, district or national levels. And with the help of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, we're going to help them take it to the next level with networking opportunities and chances for funding.

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### **President & Founder of Girl Child Network Honored as 'CNN Hero'**

June 8, 2009--A few days ago, CNN, CNN Headline News, CNN International, and CNN en Español premiered a feature story naming **Betty Makoni--founder and president of Girl Child Network (GCN) in Zimbabwe**--a 'CNN Hero' and drawing attention to her work "protecting the powerless". Ms. Makoni also appeared as a guest on the 'Larry King Live' show. A former high school teacher and abuse survivor, Betty established GCN in 1999 to protect girls from abuse and to empower them to stay in school despite overwhelming marginalization and violence in their communities.

The Firelight Foundation was one of GCN's earliest supporters, with a first grant in 2001. Nearly a decade later, GCN works through a network of 500 clubs with some 35,000 members to advocate for girls' rights; provide emergency services to abused girls; and train girls in HIV prevention, human rights, and income generation.

To view Betty's 'Heroes' page on CNN.com and watch her appearances on CNN News and 'Larry King Live,' click on:

<http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cnn.heroes/archive09/betty.makoni.html>

If you would like to nominate someone to be highlighted for their heroic work, please see: <http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cnn.heroes/nom/>

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## **Call for articles - Exchange Magazine**

Deadline: 14 August 2009

Exchange is a magazine on HIV/AIDS, sexuality and gender in developing countries. It is published quarterly by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in collaboration with Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination (SAfAIDS) in South Africa. Exchange is continuously welcoming contributions for its forthcoming issues. The articles should preferably focus on HIV in relation to gender, culture, sexual health, sexuality and/or rights issues. We are especially interested in receiving reflective papers from programme managers and other staff of local and national level NGOs working in the Global South about their successful and promising programmes, strategies or approaches. Please note that we prefer articles that go beyond describing a phenomenon by sharing good and promising practice in programming or advocacy work.

The next issue of Exchange on HIV/AIDS, Sexuality and Gender will focus on, cultural, gender, psychological and sexual behavioural implications of male circumcision as a method of HIV prevention. Please contact the editor for detailed guidelines and suggestions before you start writing.

Find out more at: <http://www.kit.nl/smartsite.shtml?ch=FAB&id=10506> or email the Managing Editor, Eliezer F. Wangulu on [e.wangulu@kit.nl](mailto:e.wangulu@kit.nl)

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## **Essay Competition: Youth Speak Out: Engaging in Democracy and Grasping Opportunity**

Deadline: 15 September 2009

Raise your voice, share your ideas and get involved in democracy! Submit your essay on democracy, and get your free ticket to the world's largest gathering of democracy and human rights activists in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2010. The [World Youth Movement for Democracy](#), a youth network of the [World Movement for Democracy](#), is pleased to announce the launch of its Global Essay Contest. Fifteen winners (3 in each region: Asia, Central/Eastern Europe & Eurasia, Middle East & North Africa, Latin America & Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa) will be invited to participate in the upcoming 6th Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy in Jakarta, Indonesia, in April 2010. The questions posed below for this essay contest aim to challenge youth to write about their perspectives on democracy and their understanding of democracy activism, particularly their own. Essays are required to address one or more of the following questions:

- What democratic spaces exist for young people in your society? What do you see as democratic values in your society? How do you engage with them?

- How can democracy help address your personal and social concerns (poverty, access to education, pandemics, inequality etc.)? How do you and others in your community address these concerns?
- Describe and explain how a specific event or instance changed your perception of democracy.

Submissions: Please submit your essay via email attachment as a Word document or a PDF to [wymd.africa@gmail.com](mailto:wymd.africa@gmail.com) Please make sure to clearly designate, in the body of your email, your full name, age, gender, physical address, and phone number, to the relevant regional email address listed below.

Essays can be submitted in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, or Spanish, and the essay must be no more than 2,000 words. Authors must be between 18 and 30 years old. To submit your essays via fax, please fax: +1.202.378.9889. Please provide your personal details in the fax cover sheet.

For further information on the Global Youth Essay Contest, please visit <http://www.wymd.org> - if you have any specific questions, please contact Cecilia Andersen at: [ceciliah@ned.org](mailto:ceciliah@ned.org)

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**Publication - YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT IN AFRICA: *The Potential, the Problem, the Promise (World Bank, 2008)***

According to the African Development Indicators (ADI) 2008/09, a job-seeking African youth (age 15-24) — typically a poor, out-of-school female living in a rural area — will likely face increasingly greater challenges in securing employment on the continent. Arguing for a multi-sectoral approach, this report suggests several key areas to begin tackling the employment issue, including expanding job and education alternatives in the rural areas; encouraging and supporting entrepreneurship; improving the access and quality of skills formation; and addressing demographic issues.

Citing examples of interventions designed to integrate young people in the labor market, the study reinforces the point that comprehensive and integrated approaches tend to do better than fragmented ones. Given the challenges faced by the youth in labor markets, success in pursuing employment for young people will require long term, concerted actions, spanning a wide range of policies and programs.

Due to an increase in youth population, as well as the still very high fertility rate that characterizes the region, African countries will likely face an increase in job creation pressure for the youth over the coming decades. However, the report also highlights the valuable resource that young people are to their countries, and points out that helping them gain access to employment is a critical precondition for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

To download this publication, see:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSTATINAFR/Resources/ADI-200809-essay-EN.pdf>

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## **Caregivers Advocacy Guide**

The Global Caregivers Action Coalition has produced a simple analysis and advocacy guide for use by organizations working on caregiving. It can be downloaded at:

[http://www.huairou.org/assets/download/GCAA\\_CSJ\\_Results.pdf](http://www.huairou.org/assets/download/GCAA_CSJ_Results.pdf)

The guide comes from the 53rd UN Commission on the Status of Women, 2009, focused on "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS."

### **Caregivers Action Caucus Advocacy Points:**

- Recognize, affirm and support community caregivers by including them as decision-makers in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of resources and programs
- Increase the quality of accessible funding for caregiving and earmark a minimum percentage of direct funding support for community-led responses to AIDS, particularly those driven by women.
- Strengthen and expand public health care services and human resources for health by increasing international and national funding, in a continuum of care that supports women and girls providing care services in their households and communities in the context of HIV/AIDS
- Protect and promote women's land and inheritance rights
- Reduce household poverty and the cost of care through government provision of basic services and social protection measures, as well as building the capacity of community-based organizations to develop livelihoods initiatives for care providers.

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As part of the Firelight Foundation's Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Assistance (META) 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 <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.htm>. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at [newsletter@firelightfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).