

Firelight Newsflash! 23 April 2007

NGO Coalition to Address Child Abuse Registration Deadline: 1 June 2007

Women's World Summit Foundation is happy to share with you that 710 organizations from 119 countries joined the international coalition marking the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse last year, organizing activities and events on 19 November or supporting the Day in general. If you wish to join the 2007 coalition and take part in next year's Prize for prevention of child abuse, please complete the registration form available on the WWSF [website](#). Your organization's name will then be printed on the global poster 2007 and published on the Internet, and you will receive their new campaign materials in due course.

The main purpose of the NGO Coalition is to contribute to the **creation of a culture of prevention of child abuse and form a global partnership network to raise awareness, mobilise public opinion and action, and disseminate prevention programs.**

To join the Coalition, members commit to mark the Day with local and national events and activities; mention the Day in their publications and on their web sites; distribute posters, educational programs and information; create partnerships with local organisations working for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, alert the press and radio stations, inform local authorities of the existence of the Day and planned activities, and lobby governments for official proclamation of the Day as a National Day.

We encourage international and national organizations to join and support the Coalition. There is no membership fee to join.

To register for membership, please complete the attached registration form, and send a signed and dated copy to:

**Women's World Summit Foundation WWSF
P.O. Box 143 - 1211 Geneva 20 - Switzerland
Fax (+41 22) 738 82 48**

10 Tips on Facilitating Discussions

Whether in a meeting with our colleagues, talking to community members, or interacting with our friends and family, we often find ourselves in the role of facilitator. Facilitators aid or assist a process, especially by encouraging people to find their own solutions to problems or tasks. Below is some advice to guide you in this role when important discussions are taking place:

Ø Allow all people to talk openly, and be supportive of them when they do. Building a rapport with people at the beginning of the discussion will ensure that respondents remain motivated and interested in the dialogue.

Ø As much as possible, a facilitator should try to make a discussion feel like a natural conversation. Remember that not you, but other people should do the majority of the talking.

Ø Communicate your attentiveness and active listening through a relaxed posture, facial expression and verbal responses which follow directly from what people are saying.

Ø Try to ensure that everybody speaks and that nobody is influenced by others in the group. Encourage quiet or shy participants to join the discussion.

Ø In some groups dominant people emerge. If you notice that is happening try to involve other people by addressing questions to them directly e.g. "Let's just go round the room and hear what everybody else has to say about this."

Ø Sometimes it is necessary for the facilitator to intervene to keep focus on important issues when someone gets off the topic. For example, you can say '...that is very interesting, can we come back to this later after we have finished the rest?'

Ø Probe for elaboration and further information when necessary. Asking additional questions can encourage your participants to dwell on an issue and give greater depth or detail. For example, you could say "Could you tell me a little more about that?" or "What do you mean when you say...?"

Ø Don't put words into a person's mouth or interrupt them.

Ø Remain neutral as much as possible. Avoid judgmental comments (e.g. "That's good, bad.")

Ø Occasionally '*reflect back*' what basic meaning or key points you are taking from people's discussion. Use a short restatement of their key experiences put in your own words. This allows participants to confirm or otherwise check the accuracy of your understanding and will often evoke more discussion. An example of a reflecting statement a facilitator might make is, "*So it seems that those few months of food shortages you were actually feeling quite stressed.*"

Gender-based violence and property grabbing in Africa

Property grabbing is a new form of gendered violence against women, threatening the security of women across Southern and East Africa. Forced evictions are often accompanied by further acts of violence, including physical and mental harassment, and abuse. Widows are particularly vulnerable, partly as

a result of weakened customary practice and social safety nets that used to provide support to widowed women and their children, a situation made worse by the HIV and AIDS epidemic. Defending their property has cost some women their lives, while other women have lost their shelter and source of livelihoods, and have become destitute. The harassment and humiliation that often accompany property grabbing further strip women of their self-esteem, affecting their ability to defend their rights. This paper by Kaori Izumi in the latest edition of the journal "Gender & Development" is attached below.