

Firelight Newsflash! 26 July, 2010

Dear Friends,

As our Firelight team members, and people all over the world, return home from the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna, we are reminded of the goals we have set for ourself, what we have accomplished, and how much there is to be done! One way in which we can improve our efforts is by communicating effectively with other partners contributing to the same causes, something that WiserEarth helps organizations do. By joining this networking site, organizations can make sure their services are not duplicated and that their efforts are maximized. Please see their information below if you are interested. Also, check out the free supplementary publication that Firelight contributed to in the Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies Journal. But hurry! Free access ends August 18!

Enjoy,
Firelight Team

- Firelight's supplementary issues of the Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies Journal Community Action: Supporting children and families affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa
- WiserEarth networking tool for civil society efforts
- (Article) Huairou Commission Update Grassroots Home-Based Caregivers Call for Immediate Action at International AIDS Conference, Vienna, Austria
- The Vienna Declaration
- (Article) WHO and UNAIDS welcome ground breaking proof of concept study results for vaginal gel showing reduced risk of HIV infections in women
- (Article) Women's Bill: Historic Demand for Women's Leadership
- Building Blocks: Afirca-wide briefing notes

The Firelight Foundation is pleased to announce its Supplementary Issue of the Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies Journal Community Action: Supporting children and families affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa with Guest Editors: Geoff Foster, Peter Laugharn and Susan Wilkinson-Maposa (Volume 5, Supplement 1, June 2010. ISSN 1745-0128)

We are grateful to the publisher, Routledge, for providing free online access to all of the articles in this issue until August 18, 2010, in celebration of the 2010 International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010-Vienna, July 18-23).

To download your complete copy, free of charge until August 18, 2010, go here: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title%7Edb=all%7Econtent=g92443083>

8 and click on "Full text PDF" of "Full text HTML" for any of the articles you are interested in.

What is WiserEarth?

WiserEarth helps the global movement of people and organizations working toward social justice, indigenous rights, and environmental stewardship connect, collaborate, share knowledge, and build alliances.

All tools and content are free to use.

Why do we need WiserEarth?

There are more than one million organizations and many millions of us around the world who are actively working toward ecological sustainability, economic justice, human rights protection, political accountability and peace -- issues that are systemically interconnected and intertwined.

Our effectiveness to prevent harm and institute positive change is undermined by our lack of collective awareness, duplication of efforts, and poor connectivity.

What has been missing is a map and directory of our network that includes the resources for communication and cooperation; in essence, an infrastructure through which to coordinate our efforts. WiserEarth provides this infrastructure. It provides a way for us to become better connected and more effective at working together.

For more, go here: <http://www.wiserearth.org/>

Grassroots Home-Based Caregivers Call for Immediate Action at International AIDS Conference, Vienna, Austria

From Huairou Commission Update July 20, 2010 Vol. 98

Grassroots women home-based caregivers and their partners and allies demonstrated their central role in creating comprehensive responses to HIV and AIDS at the community level, and called for immediate action and investments in their organizations and initiatives at the International AIDS Conference this week.

The caregivers and the issue of care and support have gained unprecedented attention at this year's AIDS Conference. The caregivers are members of the Huairou Commission and the larger space of the newly formed Caregivers Action Network (CAN - founded by Cordaid, HelpAge International, the Huairou Commission and VSO International). Through participation in a large and active Networking Zone in the Global Village, panel sessions, a daily caucus, and the Women's and Human Rights Networking Zones, the caregivers have clearly

stated their agenda .

Home-Based Caregivers

- Are major actors in the fight against HIV and AIDS;
- Create holistic and effective community health systems and ensuring access to treatment and prevention;
- Must be recognized and resourced for their efforts if we want to end the crises of HIV and AIDS and create more resilient communities.

As major dialogues in the Conference focus on "Treatment 2.0" (which refers to radically simplified treatment regimens and treatment as prevention), new advancements in microbicides, the human rights of those considered most at risk, and global funding commitments for AIDS, the home-based caregivers insist, based on their daily experience, that:

- treatment and prevention could not be rolled out if they were not in communities linking people living with HIV to health clinics, sharing information on available services, and ensuring food and nutrition security;
- funding would not reach those who need it most if they were not in communities watching where funding went, and ensuring it reaches the most poor and vulnerable households;
- many people, including sex workers and drug users, and especially at the grassroots level, would not know or be able to claim their rights if organized groups of caregivers were not joining them to raise awareness on and in some cases actively protecting those rights.

For the whole article, go here: <http://www.huairou.org>

or click here to join their mailing

list: http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001li8Y_QGk40rqL0t6FIEziw%3D%3D

The Vienna Declaration: 13,917 signatures in 5 days

The Vienna Declaration is a statement seeking to improve community health and safety by calling for the incorporation of scientific evidence into illicit drug policies. We are inviting scientists, health practitioners and the public to endorse this document in order to bring these issues to the attention of governments and international agencies, and to illustrate that drug policy reform is a matter of urgent international significance. We also welcome organizational endorsements.

For more, and to sign, go here: http://www.viennadeclaration.com/?utm_&&

WHO and UNAIDS welcome ground breaking proof of concept study results for vaginal gel showing reduced risk of HIV infections in women

First time results from a South African study show that a gel containing an antiretroviral drug—when used as a vaginal microbicide—was found to be 39% effective in reducing a woman’s risk of becoming infected with HIV during sex.

VIENNA, 19 July 2010—The results announced today at the XVIII International AIDS conference in Vienna showed a significant reduction in risk of HIV infection in women who used a new generation of microbicide gels, one that contains the antiretroviral drug tenofovir. It also showed a significant reduction in genital herpes, a common viral sexually transmitted infection, which itself increases the risk of acquiring HIV infection.

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For the entire article and free download, go
here: http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/PressCentre/PressReleases/2010/20100719_PS.asp

Women's Bill: Historic Demand for Women's Leadership
From Global Fund for Women on July 22, 2010

Against the backdrop of the ongoing discussions in the Zimbabwean Parliament on numerous bills, Aziza Abemba from Women Self Promotion Movement (WSPM), a GFW grantee partner based in the capital Harare, shared with us some critical insights. WSPM works with refugee women and girls from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi. The group works to promote women’s leadership, entrepreneurship, civic participation, and training in conflict resolution and domestic violence prevention. Read this vital analysis:

Zimbabwe Geared Toward Enactment of Women’s Council Bill

The third Session of the Seventh Parliament meeting held in Harare recently, which will see 23 Bills, including among others, the Women’s Council Bill, which will facilitate the establishment of an organ to co-ordinate the implementation of women’s empowerment programmes, being presented for debate in both Houses can be viewed as a welcome development and a golden opportunity for women’s empowerment in Zimbabwe.

For the full article, go here: <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/find-out/the-issues/analysis/1728-zimbabwe-poised-to-enact-womens-bill-historic-demand->

for-womens-leadership

Building Blocks: Afirca-wide briefing notes

From International HIV/AIDS Alliance

This is the first in a series of seven 'Building Blocks' publications. It seeks to provide an overview of issues for communities working with orphans and vulnerable children in Africa. It is divided into four sections - introduction, issues, principles and strategies

For a free download, go here: <http://www.ovcsupport.net/s/library.php?ld=2>

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.