

28 September, 2010

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you. This episode has several guides from UN-HABITAT to help you and your organizations interact with local government to achieve important goals.

- New Tactics Self-care for human rights activists
- Capacitar guides for healthy, rehabilitative exercises
- CIVICUS Legitimacy, Accountability and Transparency website for civil society organizations
- Fund for Women's Property and Inheritance Rights in the Context of HIV/AIDS
- World Youth Movement for Democracy Essay Contest
- ABILIS Foundation
- Gender in Local Government: A Sourcebook for Trainers (UN-HABITAT)
- Facilitating Participatory Budgeting handbook (UN-HABITAT)

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New Tactics Self-care for human rights activists

Online tactical dialogue September 22-28 (in addition to lots of shared resources)

Human rights work is a powerful and fulfilling vocation, yet it is equally challenging for many human rights practitioners. These practitioners are often exposed to distressing situations directly and indirectly. From those working directly with survivors of human rights abuses to those working indirectly on human rights abuse issues, the need for taking care of one's self is extremely important. This online dialogue will address and define the risks of human rights work: compassion fatigue, burnout, secondary and vicarious trauma, and stress.

For more, go here: <http://www.newtactics.org/en/blog/new-tactics/self-care>

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Capacitar guides for healthy, rehabilitative exercises

Capacitar means "to empower." Our vision is to heal ourselves and to heal our world. Using a hands-on popular education approach, we teach simple wellness practices that lead to healing, wholeness and peace in the individual and in the world. Capacitar is committed to communities affected by violence, poverty and trauma, uniting people across borders in solidarity, understanding and reconciliation.

Their site has guidebooks, tips for healing abused and traumatized communities, and healthy exercises for caregivers.

For more, go here: <http://capacitar.org/index.html>

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CIVICUS Legitimacy, Accountability and Transparency website for civil society

organizations

CIVICUS believe both the freedom to operate, and the ability to do so in a responsible manner, is critical for ensuring civil society actors are able to effectively represent their constituencies and support democratic decision making. The accountability of non-governmental organizations is essential for the legitimacy, sustainability, effectiveness and protection of the sector and is more important now than ever.

The aim of the Legitimacy, Transparency and Accountability (LTA) programme at CIVICUS is to improve public trust and the credibility of civil society organisations and their activities through the enhancement of their accountability systems and structures.

This Resource Centre provides information on a range of organizations, initiatives and activities throughout the world seeking to increase trust and credibility. It contains the latest research by experts; it provides toolkits already used by civil society organizations; and it includes case studies by people who have address LTA challenges in their organization.

For more, go here: <http://lta.civicus.org/>

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#### Fund for Women's Property and Inheritance Rights in the Context of HIV/AIDS

With funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), UNIFEM (a part of UN Women) is launching the Fund for Women's Property and Inheritance Rights in the Context of HIV/AIDS. The Fund will implement a small grants programme in sub Saharan Africa aimed at facilitating strategic action to secure women's right to property and inheritance in the context of HIV/AIDS by providing catalytic resources to NGOs or networks working at the community and grassroots levels. Through this call for proposals, relevant organizations, with priority being given to grassroots and community-based organizations, especially those working at the intersection of women's property and inheritance rights and HIV/AIDS, will be identified. Projects that demonstrate innovative and promising approaches will be selected.

Interested applicants from sub-Saharan Africa are invited to apply. The Call for Proposals opens on 20 September 2010 and will close on 20 October 2010.

For more information, go here: [http://www.unifem.org/news\\_events/story\\_detail.php?StoryID=1166](http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=1166)

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#### World Youth Movement for Democracy Essay Contest

Democracy has been practiced in different ways and in different contexts. We

believe there are core universal democratic values and aspirations that we all share, which transcend our differences, even though we live in different cultures, speak different languages, and eat different food. The purpose of this essay contest is to highlight personal engagement in democracy by promoting critical thinking about the role of young people in democracy and to connect youth with broader democracy movements. 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 at least one four questions.

Please submit your essay by World Youth Day for Democracy, 18 October 2010, via email attachment as a Word document. The format must have 1” margins, double spaced, Times New Roman font, and size 12 font. 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. Do not enter your name or other details on your actual essay. Essays can be submitted in Arabic, English, French, Russian, or Spanish, and the essay must be no more than 2,000 words. Authors must be no younger than 18 and no older than 30 years old before October 18).

For more information, go here: <http://www.wymdonline.org/> and submit your essays to: [WYMD.AFRICA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WYMD.AFRICA@GMAIL.COM)

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ABILIS Foundation

ABILIS Foundation is a development fund, founded by people with disabilities in Finland in 1998. Its mandate is to support the activities empowerment of disabled persons in the Global South (developing countries).

ABILIS Foundation supports activities that contribute toward equal opportunities for disabled people in society through human rights, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Special priority is given to projects on advocating for human rights of disabled people and to activities developed and implemented by disabled women.

ABILIS Foundation gives small grants ranging from 500 to 10.000 Euros to projects initiated by disabled persons. These are one-time grants for new projects. We support organizations that are run by persons who have a disability, be it related to mobility, vision, hearing or any other type of disability. We also support organisations that are run by parents of children with disabilities.

For focus country applications, go here:

[http://www.abilis.fi/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=331&lang=en](http://www.abilis.fi/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=331&lang=en)

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## Gender in Local Government: A Sourcebook for Trainers (UN-HABITAT)

From the preface:

"This Sourcebook aims at providing local governments with the tools to better understand the importance of gender in the decision-making process and to reach better solutions for the communities they serve. For this publication the following key issues of local governance have been selected: -participation in local government, -land rights, -urban planning, -service provision, -local government financing, -violence against women and -local economic development...As it is assumed that many local government trainers are not experienced gender trainers, the Sourcebook provides an extensive overview of gender concepts and tools. It also gives guidelines and tips for running gender training events and for integrating gender into traditional local government training."

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## Facilitating Participatory Budgeting handbook (UN-HABITAT)

Volume II of this Participatory Budgeting handbook covers the facilitation methods in 4 chapters. Drawing from examples in Southern and Eastern Africa, this guide trains you to educate your community, persuade your local government and become an effective advocate for transparent budgeting. From the foreword:

"Participatory budgeting is emerging as an innovative urban management practice with excellent potential to promote principles of good urban governance. Indeed, participatory budgeting can yield many benefits to local government and civil society alike. It can improve transparency in municipal expenditures and stimulate citizens' involvement in decision-making over public resources. It can strengthen social networks and help mediate differences between elected leaders and civil society groups."

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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](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).