

Firelight Newsflash! 2 March 2009 - Focus on Girls & Young Women

International Women's Day 2009: Women and Men United to End Violence Against Women and Girls

In recognition of the International Women's Day (8 March 2009), the Gender-Net team, in collaboration with UNIFEM, would like to provide you with a collection of advocacy materials to help promote and celebrate the International Day. This year's theme *"Women and Men United to End Violence against Women and Girls"* gives an opportunity to raise awareness worldwide of violence against women and girls, and the efforts to end gender based violence.

To learn more and to access these materials, see:

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

Manual: Working with young women; empowerment, rights and health

Although there has been a significant amount of work done to promote women's empowerment, most of it has been geared towards the experiences of adult women. This manual, part of an initiative called Program M, includes a series of group educational activities to promote young women's awareness about gender inequities, rights and health. It also seeks to develop their skills to feel more capable of acting in empowered ways in different spheres of their lives. Modules in this manual include 1) identity and relationships, 2) violence, 3) drugs, 4) young women and work, and 5) community participation.

To download the manual, see:

http://www.promundo.org.br/materiais_de_apoio/publicacoes/MANUAL_M.pdf

International Women's Health Coalition: "Empower Girls to Stay HIV-Negative"

Over three billion women worldwide are HIV-negative. They have the right to stay negative. Globally half of the people living with HIV and AIDS are female. Biologically, women are more likely than men to acquire HIV. Gender inequalities and human rights violations heighten girls' and women's vulnerability.

For everyone, safer sex requires:

Respect for the mutual consent of partners and their right to say no;

Zero coercion and violence;

Access to female and male condoms and information on using them; and

Knowledge of one's own and one's partner's sexual health, including HIV status.

To read more, read the attached or see:

http://www.iwhc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3491&Itemid=1112

Safe Schools Campaigns - Plan International & Amnesty International

This right is essential not only for girls to grow and learn, but also so that they are able to be independent and make their own choices in their lives. Schools are not just places to learn and realize potential - some are also places of **fear and violence**. Some girls face violence at school at the hands of teachers, school staff or other students. Violence stops girls going to school. Girls must be able to pursue their education in an environment which is safe, respectful and non-discriminatory.

For more information, see:

English - <http://learnwithoutfear.org/en/>

French - <http://learnwithoutfear.org/fr/>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/campaigns/stop-violence-against-women/issues/empowerment-women/safe-schools>

Make It Matter: 10 Key Advocacy Messages to Prevent HIV in Girls and Young Women

The aim of this guide is to equip its users with key messages, evidence and actions that can be used to advocate effectively to prevent HIV in girls and young women. It focuses on three goals that the global community increasingly recognizes as important components of the response to the epidemic: improving the accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services for girls and young women; expanding socio-economic opportunities; and ending child marriage. In turn, collectively the goals are divided into a total of 10 key messages. See below for overview:

To download the full publication, see:

http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/754_filename_makeitmatter.pdf

Program Profile: Girls'Net in South Africa

Girls'Net is a South African social and multi- media programme that gets girls actively involved in the use of technology for their development. Our aim is to use ICTs to help girls realize their full potential and to grow a girl social movement through the use of ICTs. Girls are the creators of digital and textual information. In principle, Girls'Net does four things:

- 1) It opens up innovative opportunities of ICTs to girls
- 2) It encourages girls to make use of ICTs
- 3) According to the above, girls are able to be active participants in the "Information Age"
- 4) In this way, they are able to speak on their own 'issues' and be empowered

To learn more:

<http://www.womensnet.org.za/node/863>

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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. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.