

## **Firelight Newsflash! 3 March 2008**

### **Celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March 2008**

Around the globe, people will celebrate women on 8 March 2008! It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women!

UNICEF annual report, *The State of the World's Children 2007*, examines the discrimination and disempowerment women face throughout their lives – and outlines what must be done to eliminate gender discrimination and empower women and girls. It looks at the status of women today and shows how investment in women's rights will ultimately produce a double dividend: advancing the rights of both women and children.

An excerpt from the report:

"Healthy, educated and empowered women have healthy, educated and confident daughters and sons. The amount of influence women have over the decisions in the household has been shown to positively impact the nutrition, health care and education of their children. But the benefits of gender equality go beyond their direct impact on children. Without it, it will be impossible to create a world of equity, tolerance and shared responsibility – a world that is fit for children."

To read more of the report, see:

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc07/>

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### **PROFILE: African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)**

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#### **Grantmaking Information:**

*Geographic focus:* Africa-wide

*Issue focus:* women's human rights; political participation; peace building; health, reproductive rights and HIV/AIDS; economic empowerment

*Grant size:* \$1,000 - \$30,000

*Application process:* see website for application guidelines; applications accepted throughout the year

**Info sur les demandes de subventions:**

*Aire géographique concernée* : toute l'Afrique

*Centres d'intérêt* : droits humains des femmes ; participation à la vie politique ; consolidation de la paix ; santé, droits en matière de reproduction et VIH/SIDA ; émancipation économique

*Montant des subventions*: 1.000 \$ - 30.000 \$

*Constitution du dossier* : consulter le site internet pour connaître la marche à suivre ; demandes acceptées toute l'année

AWDF's HIV/AIDS fund is meant to complement existing resources available to African women's organisations working on issues related to HIV and AIDS, and to increase access for those who are currently unable to carry out effective programmes due to lack of funding. AWDF has two goals in mind: promotion of a culture of awareness, compassion and responsibility around HIV/AIDS issues, particularly where they affect women and girls in Africa; and establishment of a firm link between gender inequality, the low status of women and girls, and its implications for the extreme vulnerability of women.

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**Newsletter focuses on HIV+ children and their families**

Each month, **Growing Up Info** will keep you informed on the latest news and discussions on paediatric HIV, on the most recent research studies and the most successful programmes. Subscription to this newsletter is free of charge. You can also download PDF or HTML versions of our previous issues.

To sign up and view all previous issues, see GROWING UP's website:

<http://www.grandir.sidaction.org/2-9/publications-growing-up/growing-up-info.htm>

Attached is GROWING UP INFO #15, which deals exclusively with the issue of **support groups for children living with HIV and their families**. Whether it be support groups for teenagers who are informed of their HIV status, support groups for parents of children living with HIV, or support groups aimed at preparing for the disclosure of HIV infection to children, the experiences led by African community-based organisations (CBOs) are currently rapidly multiplying!

GROWING UP INFO #15 is available in two formats:

**html** : [http://www.sidaction.org/nl/growingupinfo15/en\\_index.html](http://www.sidaction.org/nl/growingupinfo15/en_index.html)

Version française, Grandir Info #15:

[http://www.sidaction.org/nl/grandirinfo15/fr\\_index.html](http://www.sidaction.org/nl/grandirinfo15/fr_index.html)

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**Course: Building Capacity for Rights, 20-30 Oct 2008**

This course, intended for people concerned with social change in Africa, aims to build capacity for advancing rights within development and activist organizations. It is designed to engage researcher, advocates, trainers and program officers from civil society and state institutions in exploring understandings of rights in developing practical approaches to employing a rights perspective in advocacy and development programmes. The course is jointly organised by KIT and the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) at the University of Witwatersrand.

The deadline for scholarships is **15 March 2008**. The deadline for applications is **30 May 2008**.

For further details and to access the application form, see:

<http://www.law.wits.ac.za/cals/>

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**Firelight featured in article**

The publication, "Beyond Philanthropy" recently interviewed Firelight founder, Kerry Olson, to discuss the efforts of the Firelight Foundation to support and advocate for the needs and rights of children who are orphaned by or affected by HIV/ AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. The article entitled, "Wise Givers: Kerry Olson Brings Firelight to Children Orphaned by AIDS," documents the work being done by Firelight to advance community- and family-based care options for children.

Click the link below to read the article:

[http://www.beyondphilanthropy.org/reviews/wise\\_givers\\_kerry\\_olson](http://www.beyondphilanthropy.org/reviews/wise_givers_kerry_olson)