

Subject: Firelight Newsflash! 6 August 2007

Congratulations are in order...

Lydia Muso of the Lesotho Child Counseling Unit won a South African Community Award on 12 July 2007. She was #2 out of 1000 competitors! Lesotho Child Counseling Unit (LCCU) provides a temporary, safe home for the rehabilitative care of sexually, physically, and emotionally abused children. They offer trauma therapy and legal advocacy to children and families dealing with abuse, and conduct community trainings to promote awareness and action for abused children. Says Lydia, "I am so overjoyed and i wnt to share my happiness with you!" Please share in her excitement and share our congratulations with her! Keep up the great work Lydia and LCCU!

Join the "Drum Beat" Newsletter

The "Drum Beat" is a weekly electronic publication exploring initiatives, ideas and trends in communication for development. If you wish to receive The Drum Beat, which has special editions on HIV/AIDS, please click on http://www.comminit.com/subscribe_drumbeat.html and complete the brief subscriber form.

SLAVERY: Application for project grants [call for applications]

Deadline: 15 September 2007 The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery allocates project grants for programmes of humanitarian, legal and financial assistance to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery, such as forced labor, trafficking of women and children, child labor, and prostitution. For more information on the Fund, and for selection criteria and guidelines, visit the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/index.htm#s>. (See column on left hand side of page.)

For further information on contemporary forms of slavery you may wish to consult the OHCHR publication:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/docs/slavery.pdf>

For more information, contact: United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1211 Geneva

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What's Culture Got to Do with HIV and AIDS?

This 8-page HealthLink Findings paper reports the initial findings from a project entitled HIV/AIDS: The Creative Challenge, which examined approaches to communicating messages on HIV/AIDS from a culturally relevant viewpoint rather than mass media messages from the biomedical community to the local community. The author provides an introductory analysis of the concept of culture, looks at examples and success stories of effective application of cultural approaches to HIV/AIDS communication, and sets out the terms of the debate around culture in the context of the current international HIV/AIDS strategy...

Key points from the publication:

Cultural approaches to HIV and AIDS have built trust and engagement at community level, increasing the likelihood of prevention.

Cultural approaches to HIV and AIDS are gaining currency because they interact with the values, beliefs, traditions and social structures - the 'webs of significance' - in which people live.

Culture is most visible in communication programmes but some programmes are culturally inappropriate and may contribute to infection and stigma because of their focus on behaviour change.

Where a cultural approach is used in HIV and AIDS communication there is evidence of wider impact on awareness and attitudes, of stigma reduction, and of more inclusion of people living with HIV and AIDS.

New forms of monitoring and evaluation are required to capture the impact of cultural approaches to HIV and AIDS beyond behaviour change.

Culture can offer a real benefit to global strategy for HIV and AIDS if it is recast as an opportunity for action and engagement with communities, rather than as a barrier to prevention and to bio-medical approaches."

To access the publication online, see:

http://www.healthlink.org.uk/PDFs/findings7_hiv_culture.pdf

CHILD RIGHTS INFORMATION NETWORK (CRIN): Call for submissions

At CRIN, we love hearing your news and views and reading your reports. That is because we want to find out what is happening where it matters, so we can share information with as broad a global audience as possible. It is you, our members, both large and small, who can help improve existing child rights knowledge and make it widely available. We are especially keen to receive:

News on child rights issues in your area/country/region – particularly legal and administrative, although we welcome all information, however local.

Recent reports not already uploaded onto the CRIN website

We tend NOT to include: internal organisational news/reports (e.g annual reports) which may only be of interest to that organisation
Please note: You can submit a resource for the CRIN website yourselves here:http://www.crin.org/resources/submit_resource.asp. CRIN staff then approve the information for posting.

New Website: Global AIDS Alliance

The Global AIDS Alliance (GAA) seeks to mobilize the political will and financial resources needed to slow, and ultimately stop, the global AIDS crisis and reduce its impacts on poor countries hardest hit by the pandemic. GAA's new website has officially launched at <http://www.globalaidsalliance.org>.

In addition to a bold new look-and-feel, the site features an online Action Center, extensive news and information resources, and in-depth analysis of key issues.

Handbook on Access to HIV/AIDS-Related Treatment

This handbook is intended to assist groups in finding ways of understanding, planning, and undertaking work on HIV/AIDS-related treatment and is designed for use with people of varying levels of experience. It provides training resources and supports facilitation of ongoing learning about the HIV/AIDS-related treatment work of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) groups...

To access the publication online, see: http://data.unaids.org/Publications/IRC-pub02/JC897-HandbookAccess_en.pdf

Taste for Life: A New Resource on the Relationship Between HIV and Nutrition

Taste for Life, published in South Africa, looks at ways in which people who are living with HIV can change the quality of their lives by changing their nutrition. Its content focuses on the relationship between HIV and nutrition, antiretrovirals, supplements, traditional medicines, and substance use. Its purpose is to explore practical and accessible strategies for nutrition as a co-therapy for those on anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and a therapy alternative for those not eligible for ART.

To request a copy of the publication, please contact the author at terrorjoy@icon.co.za
