

Firelight Newsflash! 6 December, 2010

Dear Friends,

Thanks for reading again this week. I am excited about several resources in this issue, particularly the Healthy Newborn Network. We hope these are helpful for your organizations, and as usual if you have any suggestions, requests, or feedback we would love to hear from you.

Have a great week,  
Firelight Team

- Child Soldier resource
- University for Peace online courses
- Fahamu Courses
- Healthy Newborn Network
- (Call for suggestions) New leader for UN Women requests suggestions

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Child Soldier resource

This resource takes you through basic definitions, background, current situations, and lists an abundance of resources for organizations and teachers.

For the resource, see the attached document

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University for Peace online Courses

The UPEACE online courses are graduate courses. Each course has duration of 10 weeks, as it is divided into 10 lessons (approximately 5-7 hours per week). Participants can take them for 3 UPEACE academic credits or for non-credit. Typically, non-synchronic techniques will be used; however, participants will interact with their professor in many different ways. The programme intends to provide participants with the most modern concepts and theoretical approaches in each field of study, and to find practical applications related to the student's own realities, working experience, and place of action. Upon completion, students will receive

UPEACE is offering 2 online courses in the near future: "Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in the Contemporary World" and "Peace and Conflict studies Foundation Course".

You must meet the requirements below to enroll in online courses:

- \* An Undergraduate degree (BA, BS or similar) from an accredited college or university;
- \* An excellent academic record;
- \* A demonstrated commitment to working for a positive social change;
- \* Working experience, some experience in a related field is a plus;
- \* A background in international studies, cross-cultural experience, or the like, is highly desirable;
- \* Fluency in English, both written and spoken.
- \* Tuition costs US\$950 for 3-credit courses or US\$750 for Non-credit enrollment. Scholarships do not exist, however some students have been successful in obtaining financial aid and scholarships from their home countries.

To be added to the Distance Education Programme mailing list for future course offerings, please contact: [admissions@elearning.upeace.org](mailto:admissions@elearning.upeace.org), with the subject line: Mailing List Request.

For more information, go here: <http://www.upeace.org/elearning/>

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## Fahamu Courses

Fahamu has a vision of the world where people organise to emancipate themselves from all forms of oppression, recognise their social responsibilities, respect each other's differences, and realise their full potential. As part of its mission to build the capacity of African human rights and social justice movements, Fahamu develops training materials and runs courses, including by distance learning. Fahamu provides training to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations in Africa to promote and protect human rights and to help them become sustainable and effective organisations.

Fahamu offers courses on a variety of topics, including: Introductory courses; Investigating, monitoring and reporting on human rights violations; Advocacy and citizen participation; Practical financial management for NGOs; and Justwrite: a course on effective writing.

One of their resources, 'Writing for Change', can be found for free here: [www.fahamu.org/WFCEng/](http://www.fahamu.org/WFCEng/) (also offered in French: [www.fahamu.org/WFCFrench/](http://www.fahamu.org/WFCFrench/))

The courses listed are distance learning courses tutored via email. For dates, further information and fees, please contact:

Hilary Isaac in Oxford, UK on  
 TEL: +44-(0)1865 727006 FAX: +44-(0)1865 727909 EMAIL:  
[info@fahamu.org](mailto:info@fahamu.org)

Residential courses for all the courses are offered on request for a minimum class of ten. For further details contact:

Winnie Wambui in Nairobi, Kenya on TEL: +254 20 3749346 EMAIL: winnie@fahamu.org

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

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Healthy Newborn Network  
(via CORE Group notification- from HNN team correspondent)

"CORE Group, along with over 40 partner organizations working for newborn health, have come together to form the Healthy Newborn Network (HNN). Established in April 2010, this online community of newborn health advocates and professionals aims to address critical gaps in newborn health.

The HNN connects advocates around the world and provides a platform for discussions and interactions on a vast range of newborn and maternal health topics. In addition, the HNN boasts a vast library of newborn health resources, featuring the latest in newborn health research, news, resources, events, articles, success stories and more from HNN Partners around the world."

This website has an abundance of information which is well organized, informative and current. There are top news stories, reports, and a library of resources. You can become a member for free and sign up for their newsletter. Also, I would encourage you to visit their resource page and search for relevant resources for your organizations. You can search by topic, country, language, and many other options.

Here is an example of the types of information you will find on HNN's website:

*Measuring newborn foot length: a small step forward?* (Blog)

By Tanya Marchant on November 4, 2010 Topics: Preterm / Low Birth Weight

Our potential to connect newborns to life saving interventions just took another step forward.

We are beginning to have a robust body of evidence to promote simple, affordable and effective interventions for high risk newborns like Kangaroo Mother Care. But identifying the newborns who urgently need that extra care continues to be problematic - even though as many as 80% of them could be recognized by their low birth weight.

Why? Because in sub-Saharan Africa, for example, over half of babies are born at home and are not weighed at birth. Measuring newborn foot length could provide the tool needed to help such women, and their birth assistants, decide whether their baby needs extra care.

With the intention to develop a user-friendly low birth weight screening tool for use in communities where there are no scales, researchers at the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania tested how well the length of a baby's foot can predict whether the baby is low birth weight (<2500g) and in need of extra care. It was found that shorter foot length was highly sensitive, with 87% of low birth weight babies having a foot shorter than 8cm. The specificity of this foot length cut-off was lower at 60%, meaning that 40% of babies with foot length shorter than 8cm were actually not low birth weight. Thus measuring foot length could be used as a screening tool to identify and connect high risk babies born at home to extra care, but there would be some over-diagnosis. These findings were similar to those previously reported from Asia, and new data from Uganda looks likely to reach the same conclusion.

The appropriateness of a highly sensitive but less specific screening tool depends on the type of intervention to be recommended. When the extra care is the effective, cheap and simple Kangaroo Mother Care intervention, arguably some over-diagnosis can be justified: the effect is that more babies benefit from extra feeding and warmth. Currently in Tanzania the usefulness of measuring newborn foot length is being tested further by asking community volunteers and mothers of newborns to try out two different 'short foot' measuring tools, and by comparing their findings.

Could something so cheap and so simple be part of the answer?

For more, go here: <http://www.healthynewbornnetwork.org/page/healthy-newborn-network>

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"Michelle Bachelet's First 100 Days in Office: Send Your Suggestions"

According to the Huairou Commission's Huairou Update (3 Dec, 2010): Michelle Bachelet, as the new leader of UN Women, is soliciting suggestions for actionable ideas for her first 100 days in office. The Huairou Commission is sending suggestions for her and would like to hear from you what you think!

Some ideas we are suggesting are for Ms. Bachelet to:

- Hold consultations with grassroots women to include their voices and issues in her agenda along with establishing a grassroots women advisory board

to provide continued input throughout her term in office.

- Partner with other UN Agencies and utilize her position as Under Secretary General to influence the inclusion of women and communities in all of their work.

The GEAR Campaign has called for greater collaboration with civil society in general and the Huairou Commission hopes that Ms. Bachelet's indications of support for grassroots women will continue during her time at UN Women.

[For more information on the first 100 days request, click here.](#)

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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).