

March 14, 2012

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

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(Call for Proposals) Fund for Gender Equality Call for Proposals

This is the second call for proposals (2011-2012) for the Fund for Gender Equality that aims to provide grants for projects promoting women's economic and/or political empowerment grants with a focus on women in situations of marginalization.

This UN Women's global grantmaking fund was launched with an initial contribution from Spain (USD \$65 million), Norway (USD \$3 million), Mexico (USD \$800,000) and most recently, the Netherlands (USD \$1.18 million). It is currently seeking innovative and impact-oriented proposals from eligible countries in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and the Caribbean.

The themes to be covered under this Fund are:

Women's Political Empowerment Grants:

To increase women's political participation, leadership, and influence in the decisions that affect their lives, including through leadership trainings and education and with a focus on youth.

Women's Economic Empowerment Grants:

To increase women's access to and control over resources and assets – including land, water, technology, and viable employment – while also addressing the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work on women and girls, with particular emphasis on holistic and environmentally sustainable development approaches.

Priority areas cover economic/political empowerment, gender equality, innovation & creativity, fostering dialogues, a rights-based approach, engagement of women in situations of marginalization, matching funds and sustainability. All programmes must articulate how they will achieve tangible results in the lives of specific groups of women and girls.

All grants range from a minimum of US\$200,000 to a maximum of US\$1 million distributed over a period of one to three years.

Proposals have to be submitted through an online application process which will open on March 12, 2012.

Deadline for Submission: March 23, 2012

For more go to: <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/fund-for-gender-equality/>

(Call for Applications) Call for Applications invited by International Forum for Young Leaders

Call for Applications are invited by International Forum for Young Leaders. This Global Conference on Democracy, Human Rights and the Fragility of Freedom will be organized at McGill University in Montreal, Canada from 21st March to 23rd March, 2013.

This third conference will offer golden networking opportunity for like-minded young leaders throughout the world allowing them to involve with each other and work with some of the Conference's eminent speakers.

Young Leaders will have the opportunity to develop practical skills in human rights advocacy, including in the use of social media and community-building to effect change. This will be the third Echenberg Family Conference on Human Rights. Young Leaders Forum become McGill Echenberg Human Rights Fellows and remains active in a vibrant community of human rights professionals around the world.

The Young Leaders will address significant issues around democratic citizenship, the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, including the violent repression of democracy and economic and social rights, as well as the role of

transnationalism, globalization and foreign policy in democracy.

The main goal of the International Forum for Young Leaders is to share practical tools and experiences while engaging with these Conference themes. We now invite applications from young professionals and scholars who can speak to the promotion of democratic issues and human rights, both in their own countries and in the international arena.

Deadline for Submission: April 13, 2012

For more go to: <http://blogs.mcgill.ca/humanrightsfellows/2012/03/02/calls-for-application-international-forum-for-young-leaders-global-conference-on-democracy-human-rights-and-the-fragility-of-freedom-march-2013/>

(Call for Proposals) SIDA Grant for Democratisation and Freedom of Expression

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) has issued a call for proposals to provide grant support to individuals, groups and civil society organizations working for democratization and freedom of expression.

The call is part of the Special Initiative for Democratization and Freedom of Expression launched in 2009 for a three-year period. Now, the Government of Sweden has decided to extend this initiative in order to continue strengthening Sweden's overall work for democracy, human rights and equal access to justice.

The Special Initiative aims to improve the conditions for actors for change to work for enhanced democratization and freedom of expression. It targets individuals, groups, civil society organizations and other relevant actors at local, national, regional and global levels, and attends to threats against democracy and freedom of expression, and restrictions on the freedoms and human rights of girls and boys, women and men.

Grant will be offered to entities belonging to countries and contexts characterized by lack of respect for human rights and where fundamental freedoms are hampered and where there is limited room for political pluralism.

The support must be directed to interventions and actors for change with restriction to countries eligible for official development assistance (ODA-recipient countries) according to the OECD/DAC-classification.

As this is an open call for proposals, full applications are required to be submitted in the format given in the Guidelines for Applicants document.

Deadline for Submission: April 15, 2012

For more go to: <http://www.sida.se/English/Partners/Civil-Society-/Call-for-Proposals-democracy-initiative/>

(Report) SPORT AS A TOOL TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY
AND EMPOWER GIRLS AND WOMEN

Sport is an integral part of the culture of almost every nation. However, its use to promote gender equity and empower girls and women is often overlooked because sport is not universally perceived as a suitable or desirable pursuit for girls and women. Existing social constructs of masculinity and femininity — or socially accepted ways of expressing what it means to be a man or woman in a particular socio-cultural context — play a key role in determining access, levels of participation, and benefits from sport.

It is true in all countries that girls and women are less likely than boys and men to participate in sport, and sport continues to be dominated by males. It is a mistake, however, to assume that this is because girls and women do not wish to participate. Poverty, heavy domestic demands, safety concerns, lack of accessible transportation, inadequate sport and recreation facilities, and few opportunities for physical education and skill development frequently prevent women's participation in physical activity and sport. As well, socio-cultural norms and constraints preventing girls and women from being physically active, leaving home unaccompanied, or being seen by men outside their family, are additional barriers preventing girls and women from becoming involved in sport and physical activity. For example, even in the matrilineal society of Palau where women are already active in communities and families, sport is still seen as a male domain.

At the same time, many international frameworks support women's participation in sport, with some national laws requiring equal access and opportunities for females. A small but growing body of evidence has also begun to establish sport as a viable tool for addressing gender equity on a broader scale.

Research on sport, gender, and development indicates that sport can benefit girls and women by:

- **Enhancing health and well-being;**
- **Fostering self-esteem and empowerment;**
- **Facilitating social inclusion and integration;**
- **Challenging gender norms; and**

- **Providing opportunities for leadership and achievement.**

Through structured sport programs, girls and women can become more physically active, benefiting their physical and mental health, including the reduced risk they will suffer from chronic diseases, depression and anxiety, and engaging in health risk behaviours. Sport can also be a powerful health information and education platform, connecting girls and women with the information, skills and strategies they need to reduce health risks in their lives, particularly in connection with their sexual and reproductive health.

Sport can help increase self-esteem by giving girls and women opportunities to learn new skills, engage in positive relationships, acquire achievements, engage in volunteer service and receive public recognition. By providing women and girls with a voice in program design and decision-making, training, and opportunities for leadership and advocacy, sport programs can also empower and help equip them to take greater control over their own lives.

Sport programs can help to reduce the social isolation and exclusion that many girls and women experience, particularly those that cannot attend school and live in poverty. Sport programs can provide girls and women with safe places to gather, help them to build social networks, offer social support, and connect them to health, education and employment information, services, and opportunities that can help to address their marginalization in society.

Sport programs can enhance the empowerment process by challenging gender norms, reducing restrictions and offering girls and women greater mobility, access to public spaces, and more opportunities for their physical, intellectual and social development. By involving families, community leaders, and boys and men in gender education, changes to gender norms can benefit men and women alike. Sport can also provide girls and women with powerful role models, leadership skills and experience that they can transfer to other domains such as their family life, civic involvement, and advocacy. All of these beneficial effects are self-reinforcing, and may also make sporting opportunities for girls and women more sustainable over time.

In spite of the benefits, the successful implementation of sport programs aimed at gender equity involves many challenges and obstacles. Not only do girls and women have limited time available for sport, but there is often little value placed on sport activities for girls by their families, by girls themselves, and by their communities. To overcome these challenges, and to convince key stakeholders about the benefits of sport programs for gender equity and empowerment, evidence to support the benefits must be documented.

For more go to: http://www.righttoplay.com/International/our-impact/Documents/Final_Report_Chapter_4.pdf

(Report) Taking Steps to Do Gender Analysis in Our Communities

Gender: refers to socially constructed roles and responsibilities of women and men, and includes expectations held about characteristics, and likely behaviours of both men and women; the roles that we learn to fill from childhood onward.

Sex: refers to the genetic and physiological characteristics and traits that indicate whether one is male or female.

Gender Equity: refers to fairness and justice in the distribution of responsibilities and benefits between men and women (i.e., equal number of women and men on an organization's Board of Directors)

Gender Equality: refers to the absence of discrimination on the basis of a person's sex in opportunities, the allocation of resources or benefits, or in access to services (i.e., equal participation and decision-making power by men and women on a Board of Directors). Gender Equity is a first step towards the goal of Gender Equality.

Gender Mainstreaming: defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as: "... the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality." (From www.ilo.org)

GENDER ANALYSIS is a tool for examining the differences between the roles that women and men play, the different levels of power they hold, their differing needs, constraints and opportunities, and the impact of these differences on their lives.

The main goals of Gender Analysis are:

- 1. To better understand our communities: Gender Analysis creates a "gender looking-glass" through which we examine our community.**
- 2. To promote gender equality through our work: Gender Analysis helps us make decisions in our poverty reduction work that set the stage for gender**

equality.

Taking Steps to Do Gender Analysis in Our Communities

WHY should we use Gender Analysis in our poverty reduction work?

- To better understand the gender dimensions of poverty in our communities.
- To promote gender equality through the articulated outcomes of our work.
- To expose the barriers to women's full participation and economic development.
- To help us find the best strategies and solutions to address the different needs and dynamics of men and women living in poverty

WHEN should we use Gender Analysis?

Gender Analysis can be done any time we are looking for ways in which to better understand and improve communities. This said, there are definitely situations that present more opportune moments to do gender analysis in poverty reduction work, such as:

- during the initial design of a project
- before the implementation of a policy
- during the evaluation of a project or policy

WHO should be involved in Gender Analysis?

Through the name itself, Gender Analysis implies the involvement of all people in a community; that is, an even cross-section of women and men of all ages. It is also important to look at the team who is doing the gender analysis, and ask such questions as "Do we represent our community?" and "How can we better represent our community in order to do an effective Gender Analysis?"

HOW should a Gender Analysis be done?

To do an effective Gender Analysis, both traditional and non-traditional research methods can be used to collect data. Traditional methods can include such things as formal interviews and surveys, mapping, and research through libraries and organizations. Non-traditional methods can include household interviews and focus group sessions, informal conversations, walking tours observing community practices, and other methods where there is participation by a diverse

group of people.

For more go to: <http://tamarackcommunity.ca/downloads/gender/Tools.pdf>

(Report) "Untapped Potential: European Foundation Funding for Women and Girls": A Study of Foundations providing funding for women and girls

European foundations have been providing funding for programs to support women and girls around the world. But despite their substantial presence and grantmaking approaches, it may be difficult to identify the exact areas of support, issues of interest and the allocation of funding for such programs. However, this study, "Untapped Potential: European Foundation Funding for Women and Girls" commissioned by Mama Cash has managed to comprehensively document and present the scope, distribution and diversity of European-based funding focused on women and girls.

The study was conducted in 2010 by the Foundation Center and Weisblatt & Associés, in cooperation with the European Foundation Centre. The study covered 145 foundations across 19 countries in Europe.

In general, 73% of foundations in this study were found to be active in the area of education. Other areas of funding including health, arts and culture and community development. Children and youth were the top beneficiary population for these foundations.

Although a considerable number of foundations were found to be involved in some kind of grantmaking or programmatic activities targeted at women and girls, it has also been recorded that a majority of foundations (58 percent) allocated less than 10 percent of their expenditures benefiting women and girls.

The foundations surveyed also identified eight issues of interest for women and girls. "Particularly high levels of interest were noted for violence against women (74 percent), poverty among women and/or girls (73 percent), and women's and/or girls' access to education (71 percent)."

Only 30% of foundations expressed interest in issues related to lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights.

The study has also recorded the key practices identified by the foundations for successfully supporting women and girls. These practices are:

1) developing strong board and executive staff leadership who understand the importance of giving to women and girls,

2) providing ongoing professional development for staff to build organizational capacity related to women and girls,

3) creating foundation practices, policies, and strategies that are flexible and adapted to fit the unique needs of organisations serving women and girls, and

4) paying close attention to the importance of data and impact.

For more go

to: http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/untapped_potential.pdf

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.