



31 December 2013

Dear Friends,

Many of our partners dedicate time and resources toward training and working with paralegals. Paralegals are individuals who provide legal education and aid to those that do not have access to lawyers or other forms of legal assistance. For instance, a paralegal could educate community members on laws about property rights, so that even vulnerable people can claim what is rightfully theirs.

This week's resources are focused on community-based paralegals and the important work that they do.

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

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Resource) How Do Community-Based Legal Programs Work?

(Resource) Community-Based Paralegals: A Practitioner's Guide

(Accepting Applications) NED Grant Program 2014

(Accepting Applications) World Justice Challenge: Global Seed Grant Competition

(Resource) How Do Community-Based Legal Programs Work?

This resource from the International Center for Research on Women focuses on community-based legal programs specifically targeted at women's property rights.

Women's property rights, especially access to land, are increasingly recognized as critical to achieving poverty reduction and gender equality. Research shows that community-based legal aid programs are a viable approach to improving legal knowledge and women's access to legal resources to address property issues. From 2009-2010, the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and the Uganda Land Alliance (ULA) implemented and evaluated a pilot program to strengthen women's property rights.

This report describes the pilot program's implementation, outcomes and lessons. It details the program design, methodologies for monitoring and evaluation, and the context in which the program was implemented. Findings include a discussion of challenges encountered by the rights workers and overall program achievements. And recommendations for community rights work as an approach to promoting women's property rights also are included.

To access this resource, visit: <http://bit.ly/1b0QVQ0>

(Resource) Community-Based Paralegals: A Practitioner's Guide

This book from Open Society Foundations is intended as a guide to creating and maintaining paralegal programs that help people who are poor or otherwise lack access to legal services. The Open Society Justice Initiative created this guide based on its initial experience establishing a community-based paralegal program in Sierra Leone. The book distills lessons learned from Sierra Leone and other community-based paralegal programs. It is intended to provide practical advice and hands-on tools for use in the field, but also be of interest to anyone who cares about justice and the legal empowerment of the poor.

To access this resource, visit: <http://bit.ly/1bZ1f98>

(Accepting Applications) NED Grant Program 2014

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), one of the major international grantmaking organizations is accepting grant applications from NGOs worldwide. NGOs working in diverse environments including newly established democracies, semi-authoritarian countries, highly repressive societies and countries undergoing democratic transitions are encouraged to apply.

NED supports the programs that Promote and defend human rights and the rule of law, support freedom of information and independent media, strengthen democratic ideas and values, promote accountability and transparency, strengthen civil society organizations, strengthen democratic political processes and institutions, promote civic education, support democratic conflict resolution, promote freedom of association, strengthen a broad-based market economy.

Submission deadline for next funding cycle is 17 January 2014.

For more information on funding criteria or to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/19grpz8>

(Accepting Applications) World Justice Challenge: Global Seed Grant Competition

The World Justice Project (WJP) is calling for applications for the World Justice Challenge – a seed grant competition to strengthen the rule of law. This is an open competition designed to incubate practical, on-the-ground programs that advance the rule of law. Selected programs will be supported by:

- Modest seed grants—the typical size of a seed grant is \$15,000 to \$25,000
- Connections to others in the WJP's global network
- Increased visibility through media and communications support

The WJP believes that everyone is a stakeholder in the rule of law, and that a multidisciplinary approach is essential to creating long-lasting change.

Submission deadline is 15 January 2014.

For more information or to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/18PC1py>

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/resources/newsflash>

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