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20 February 2014

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this weeks edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

*(Resource) "Today's Peasant Movement- Sophisticated, Threatened, and Our Best Hope for Survival"*

*(Resource) Pathways to Change Game*

*(Resource) A Guide to getting donations of Books, Computers, and Vehicles*

*(Call for Proposals) Grant for Democracy and Human Rights Projects*

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(Resource) "Today's Peasant Movement- Sophisticated, Threatened, and Our Best Hope for Survival"

The term peasant often conjures up images of medieval serfs out of touch with the ways of the world around them. Such thinking is out of date. Today, peasants proudly and powerfully put forward effective strategies to feed the planet and limit the damages wrought by industrial agriculture. What's more, they understand the connections between complex trade and economic systems, champion the rights of women, and even stand up for the rights of gay men and lesbians.

These are not your great ancestors' peasants.

"A peasant is a scientist. The amount and quality of knowledge we have been developing and practicing for centuries is highly useful and appropriate," said Maxwell Munetsi, a farmer from Zimbabwe and a member of the Via Campesina.

The Via Campesina is perhaps the largest social movement in the world, consisting of more than 250 million farmers and small producers from over 70 nations. At the top of the Via's agenda is supporting peasant agriculture, which in today's era of globalization also means seeking agrarian reform, challenging neoliberalism and corporate-friendly trade agreements, and working to stop climate disruption.

To read more, please visit: <http://bit.ly/NG9m2l>

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#### (Resource) Pathways to Change Game

The Pathways to Change game is designed to make the concept of behavior change more understandable. When outreach workers use the game with their communities, it stimulates thinking that can motivate change.

This low-literacy version of the game uses simple symbols to represent the factors at the personal, social, and environmental levels that make it harder or easier for someone to make a change in behavior. A second version of the game, designed for use in Uganda, has a glossary of key terms with translations in Acholi, Lango, Iteso, Lukonzo, Luganda, and Swahili. The Moderator's Handbook is a helpful resource for training outreach workers.

To download the game and additional resources, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1nwbGDv>

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#### (Resource) A Guide to getting donations of Books, Computers, and Vehicles

NGOs give high priority to financial assistance for which they need to conceptualize projects, write proposals, contact donors and follow-up for assured funding. While working on these time-consuming processes, NGOs fail to realize the importance of non-financial resources which are more easily available than direct grants. In fact, like grant-making agencies, there are also international organizations that are constantly involved in the process of securing non-financial assets and transferring them to needy communities and NGOs in developing countries.

Non-financial donations can include books, computers, furniture, stationary and even vehicles. These resources can be very crucial for long-term sustainability of projects and programs implemented by NGOs in developing countries. Small organizations that struggle with resources can look for these easily available non-financial donations to develop their office facilities in remote areas. Other organizations can also seek such donations to implement community-based organizational mechanisms or set-ups and transfer such assets to them.

In today's grant scenario, project funding for purchasing equipment such as computers and vehicles has been drastically reduced. In fact, many donor agencies have completely stopped covering such costs and are only offering grants for direct project activities. The sustainability of project infrastructure and ownership problems are core reasons for donors to move away from covering infrastructural costs and directly funding only community-based actions.

Considering all these developments, we have developed a list of sources from where NGOs can seek non-financial donations such as computer equipment, books and to limited extent vehicles. These sources are international agencies willing to extend such resources to needy organizations and communities in developing countries.

International agencies like the International Book Project, Book Aid International, International Book Bank, World Land Trust, African Studies Association, The Elsevier Foundation, World Vision, Computer Aid International, the Microsoft, World Computer Exchange, CARE, Transport Aid are covered in this article.

To continue reading, please visit: <http://bit.ly/Mg8dNZ>

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#### (Call for Proposals) Grant for Democracy and Human Rights Projects

The May 18 Memorial Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1994 to commemorate the 1980 Gwangju Democratization Movement by continuing the spirit of struggle for democracy in solidarity and working towards peace and human rights throughout the world. The Foundation carries out numerous projects in various fields, including organizing memorial events, establishing scholarships, fostering research, publishing materials, dispensing funds, building international solidarity, and awarding the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights.

The Grant for Democracy and Human Rights Projects in Overseas (GDHRPO) 2014 supports work that contributes to promoting democracy and human rights and to building international solidarity. The grant will be awarded to non-government organizations (not GOs or individuals) based in civil communities which have been working in this field for more than 3 years.

The May 18 Memorial Foundation will support 6 projects from 6 organizations in the field of judicial monitoring, torture and trauma rehabilitation, democracy movement commemoration, fact-finding mission, legal support for human rights victims and election monitoring.

Application deadline: **21 February 2014**. To apply, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1jC521g>

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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/resources/newsflash/>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at [newsletter@firelightfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).

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