



September 21, 2012

Dear Friends,

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

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Call For Applications) Dutch Ministry Of Foreign Affairs: Sexual And Reproductive Health And Rights Fund

(Call for Nominations) Opportunity to Participate and Showcase Your Project at the Global South-South Development Expo 2012 in Vienna, Austria

(Call for Nominations) Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights

(Resource) Prevention pays: the economic benefits of ending violence in schools

(Call For Applications) Dutch Ministry Of Foreign Affairs: Sexual And Reproductive Health And Rights Fund

For the 3-year period between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will award grants from the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Fund. Activities that are eligible for a grant, should focus on the 4 result areas for SRHR appointed by The Netherlands. Deadline for submitting proposals/applications: October 12, 2012.

The 4 result areas for SRHR appointed by The Netherlands are:

1. young people know more and are thus equipped to make healthier choices about their sexuality;
2. a growing number of people obtain access to antiretrovirals, contraceptives and other life-saving resources that promote good sexual and reproductive health;;
3. public and private clinics provide better sexual and reproductive care used by an increasing number of people;
4. more respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of people who are currently denied these rights.

The Netherlands will work to achieve this by entering into partnerships with national governments in partner countries, with international and civil society

organisations and with research institutions and businesses, to make cost-effective, life-saving interventions possible and to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights.

You may apply for grants by filling out the application form provided by the Ministry (which can be downloaded two weeks after publication of the Fund in the Government Gazette). More information can be found in the policy principles underpinning the SRHR Fund. A total of €125 million is available from the SRHR Fund.

Deadline for Submission: October 12, 2012.

For more go to: <http://www.government.nl/issues/development-cooperation/grant-programmes>

(Call for Nominations) Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights

The University of Connecticut has announced that it is accepting nominations for the 2013 Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights. The prize is awarded to an individual or group who has furthered the cause of international human rights and justice through the legal process over an extended period of time.

The Dodd Prize commemorates the distinguished career in public service of Thomas J. Dodd who, as Executive Trial Counsel at the Nuremberg Trials and a Connecticut Senator from 1959 to 1971, fought against infringement and suppression of human rights in the United States and abroad.

The Dodd Prize will be awarded during the Fall of 2013 at the University of Connecticut.

Dodd Prize recipients are honored at an awards ceremony and make a public presentation to the university community and members of the general public. The award recipient receives a monetary prize of \$75,000 and a commemorative bronze bust of Senator Thomas J. Dodd.

Deadline for submission: 31 December 2012

For more go to: <http://doddprize.uconn.edu/nomination.htm>

(Call for Nominations) Opportunity to Participate and Showcase Your Project at the Global South-South Development Expo 2012 in Vienna, Austria

The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking projects or programs that have provided solutions for Energy, Climate Change, Industrial Development, Inclusive Social Development, Biodiversity, Forestry and Land Degradation, Agriculture, Health, Youth and Women and Energy Access. The selected projects will be showcased at the Global South for the Global South-South Development Expo which will be held in Vienna, Austria from 19-23 November 2012. It will be hosted at the UNIDO headquarters.

Nominations of projects or programs are accepted from any public or private institution, group or project that have made significant contributions to human development in the global south and that has provided solutions to address the challenges in the areas of climate change/environment, food security, global health can be nominated. The Expo seeks organizations and institutions that can nominate southern development solutions (SDS) that could readily be replicated, scaled up or adapted across developing countries. The South Development Solution (SDS) could be a Southern-grown solution, a South-South partnership solution, a North-South-South triangular partnership solution, a South-South-Multilateral Organization solution, Public-Private partnership solution, and/or combination of all these.

Nominated initiatives should have some of all of the following attributes:

- South priority/demand driven
- South ownership
- South leadership
- Broad-based partnership
- Innovation
- Efficiency
- Sustainability
- Scalability

The best selected solutions will receive:

- An opportunity to exhibit the initiative at the Global South-South Development Expo
- The opportunity to interact with partners and donors interested in funding or replicating the initiative in other developing countries.
- A Commemorative plaque at the Special Ceremony with World Leaders.

Deadline for submission: 12 October 2012.

For more go to: <http://www.southsouthexpo.org/nomination-instructions-selection-process.asp>

(Resource) **Prevention pays: the economic benefits of ending violence in**

schools

School can be the most exciting or the most terrifying time of a child's life. For far too many children, it is the latter. For parents, handing over the care of their child to the school can be a wrench. They need to know she or he will be safe and learning, and that the sacrifices they are making – which are often great – will be worthwhile.

Most societies place a high value on education. It is a route out of poverty for individual children and their families, and is crucial to a country's economic development. Yet its returns are being diminished by **violence in schools – a critical factor influencing non-attendance and school dropout, and a considerable drain on the public purse.**

No country is immune from school violence. International research has identified school violence as a problem that affects both developed and developing countries. According to the UN's study on violence against children, 20-65% of all school children report being verbally or physically bullied. Some 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 experience forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual violence during 2002. A study in Nepal, where corporal punishment is routine, found that 14 per cent of school dropouts can be attributed to fear of teachers. Millions are beaten by their teachers and subjected to other painful and humiliating punishment.

And this violence comes at a price. Not only is it harming and traumatising individual children and violating their right to protection and education, it has an economic impact. ***Children who experience violence at school are likely to earn less, be in greater need of healthcare and other services, and contribute less to their countries' economies.***

The total cost of school violence in terms of foregone social benefits in just 13 countries for which information is available is up to almost US \$60 billion. That's equivalent to the World Bank's estimate of additional foreign aid needed to achieve every Millennium Development Goal by 2015.

However, it is impossible to calculate its true extent because ***children are often too ashamed or too afraid to tell anyone about it, or are not aware of how or where to report it.*** In India, 69% of children said they had been physically abused in different settings, including schools, but most said they had not reported it to anyone. In many cases it is ignored or even condoned.

Corporal punishment in schools is legal in 88 countries. Even in those where it is banned it is often seen as an acceptable form of discipline. In a number of countries, sexual violence against girls and women is the more common than expected. And-mimicking power relations in the outside world- school children bully their more vulnerable peers, such as those with disabilities, different

sexualities and different ethnic backgrounds.

1. Corporal punishment

In 88 countries – including France and a number of US states – teachers are legally allowed to physically punish their pupils.

In Egypt, 80 per cent of boys and 67 per cent of girls have suffered corporal punishment. The defence lawyer of one teacher who beat a student to death for not doing his homework claimed in court that his client had not broken the law because “hitting (a child) is not banned in schools”.

Even in countries where corporal punishment is banned, laws protecting children are often not enforced. Despite corporal punishment being prohibited in Ethiopian schools, it is still practised widely. One study found that 80 per cent of children were forced to kneel, hit about the head, pinched, slapped and hit with a stick.

2. Sexual violence

In 2002, the World Health Organization estimated that 150 million girls and 73 million boys had been raped or suffered other forms of sexual violence. Because of the shame and fear of recrimination felt by girls who have been raped, sexual violence often goes unreported. In Sierra Leone, studies show that girls are abused in exchange for grades or school fees.

3. Bullying

Bullying is common in schools across the world – and is only illegal in five. Surveys conducted in a wide range of countries found that between 20 and 65 per cent of schoolchildren report being verbally or physically bullied.

Bullying often replicates violence and power imbalances in wider society. Those who are perceived as different or weaker are the most vulnerable.

According to recent research in the USA where the cost of youth violence is estimated to exceed \$158 billion each year 30 per cent of schoolchildren are directly affected by bullying every semester. Many students, particularly boys, take a weapon to school. In 2007, 23 per cent of students reported gangs in their schools and 12 per cent of students said they had been in a physical fight during the 12 months before the survey.

The Economic Cost of School Violence

Violence in schools has far-

reaching consequences for children, their families, their communities and countries, and on global economic development.

As well as causing pain and trauma, treating injuries caused by school violence costs families money – often more than they can afford and money that could otherwise be spent on food, education and health care.

Because violence is a major factor keeping children out of school, it lessens their chances of working their way out of poverty. It takes valuable resources away from essential services and, by reducing educational achievement and subsequent earning capacity, lowers tax revenues.

Violence in schools reflects and contributes to social breakdown. Children who experience violence at school are more likely to engage in violence in later life, to place greater demands on health, welfare and judicial services, and are less likely to contribute to society.

Violence in schools is a major reason for children not attending school or dropping out early. In Nepal, 14% of dropouts were because children were afraid of their teachers. In the UK, 16-year-olds who were bullied at school are twice as likely not to be in education, employment or training, and to have lower wage levels at age 23 and 33. Young men who are not in education, employment or training are three times more likely to suffer from depression and five times more likely to have a criminal record.

Sexual violence in schools leads to unwanted and dangerous pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. In Swaziland, 17.4 per cent of 13-17-year-old girls have been taken out of school because of pregnancy, and 10.6 per cent because they have been forced to have sex. A fifth of these rapes took place at or on the way to school.

Women who have had an education tend to have fewer and healthier children. In fact, one of the most important factors determining a country's economic development is girls' education.

The economic cost of 65 low-income, middle-income and transition countries failing to educate girls to the same level as boys is US \$92 billion per year.

Children who have witnessed or been beaten at school are likely to think violence is acceptable. Corporal punishment can make students aggressive and ang

ry, and teaches them that domestic violence is permissible.

In OECD countries, an extra year of schooling will, on average, mean 5 to 15 per cent higher wages.

TAKING ACTION: A COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE

Eradicating violence from schools takes commitment and resources. The fundamental reason for eradicating violence in schools is because it violates children's rights. It is also a significant barrier to achieving Millennium Development Goal 2 on universal primary education, as school violence is a significant cause of truancy, dropout and under-performance. But failing to invest in it costs more.

There are many examples of cost-effective measures that have been successful in combating violence and making schools safer. These include:

- 1. Training teachers in positive discipline so they do not resort to corporal punishment**
- 2. Increasing the proportion of women teachers**
- 3. Improving school facilities, for example, providing adequate and separate toilets for girls and boys**
- 4. Setting up conflict mediation systems and school codes of conduct**
- 5. Broadening the curriculum to include gender equality, conflict resolution, children's rights and citizenship**
- 6. Improving communication between schools, families and communities.**

For more go to: <http://www.planusa.org/docs/Preventionpays.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.

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