

8 July 2015

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this month’s edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

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- (Resource) The importance of Ethics Review & IRB resources by country
- (Resource) WHO Informed Consent Templates
- (Resource) UNICEF Including Children in M&E guide
- (Open for Applications) The Intercultural Innovation Award
- (Open for Applications) Global Fund for Women Grants for Women Empowerment

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(Resource) The importance of Ethics Review & IRB resources by country

Our monitoring and evaluation team has recently been investigating ethics review standards for the countries in which Firelight partners are working in. In our evaluation work, it is critical that we uphold best practices around protecting the rights and confidentiality of the people and children our grantee-partners serve.

Ethics review is traditionally conducted by an International Review Board (IRB) either through universities or research institutions. In some countries, IRB approval is held within a government agency or ministry.

IRB approval is needed when research includes human subjects that will be interviewed, surveyed, or included in a focus group.

Firelight has compiled a list of ethics review requirements for the countries in which we are currently funding in — Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia. Attached is a draft document of the requirements for each of the four countries. We encourage you to look into the requirements for your country and contact local agencies for more information. Also attached is a directory for ethics review by country, compiled by the US Office of Human Research — this is a great starting point for learning about general international standards.

<Firelight Ethics Review Guidelines\_by country.docx>  
<\_US Office of Human Research\_2015internationalcompilation.doc>

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#### (Resource) WHO Informed Consent Templates

In addition to conducting an ethics review, providing consent forms to all research and evaluation participants is critical. This way, participants can have a clear understanding of the purpose of the research, what is being asked of them, and their rights to participate and/or withdraw from the research or evaluation at any time. Any time data is being collected from program participants, consent forms should always be prepared and fully discussed with participants prior to their consent to participate.

Attached are three informed consent templates compiled by the World Health Organization. The templates included are: informed consent for adults; parental consent for an adult to provide consent for a child; child consent form. More information from the WHO can be found at: [http://www.who.int/rpc/research\\_ethics/informed\\_consent/en/](http://www.who.int/rpc/research_ethics/informed_consent/en/)

<WHO\_Child Consent\_template.doc>  
<WHO\_General Adult Consent\_template.doc>  
<WHO\_Parental Consent\_template.doc>

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#### (Resource) UNICEF Including Children in M&E guide

We found this guide during our research on ethics review. We found this to be a useful tool that prompts readers to think about a variety of issues concerning including children in evaluation activities. UNICEF states that, "This Evaluation Technical guide explores the child's right to participate, related concepts and their implications for research and M&E activities. It also outlines key ethical considerations about whether and how children participate in research and M&E, and provides a checklist of questions for research and M&E managers."

The issues discussed in the guide include:

- Costs and benefits of including children in M&E
- Privacy & confidentiality
- Selection, inclusion, and exclusion
- Funding for participants
- Consent
- Dissemination of findings
- Potential impact on children

<UNICEF\_Including Children in M&E.pdf>

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#### (Open for Applications) The Intercultural Innovation Award

The Intercultural Innovation Award is a partnership between the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the BMW Group that aims to select and support the most innovative grassroots projects that encourage intercultural dialogue and cooperation

around the world.

Not-for-profit organizations that are active in promoting intercultural understanding, with a track record of managing intercultural projects and willingness to expand their range of action, are eligible to apply. These organizations should be working in the fields of:

- migration and integration;
- intercultural awareness;
- education for intercultural citizenship;
- and/or be organizations addressing the needs of specific groups in promoting intercultural understanding (e.g. faith-based, youth, women, media, etc.)

The Intercultural Innovation Award is bestowed upon ten organizations. Awardees receive one year of support and consulting from the UNAOC and the BMW Group, which will assist their projects to increase their effectiveness. Support will also be provided to successful projects so that they can be replicated in other contexts or settings where they might be relevant. The specific support received will depend on the individual needs of the projects.

A detailed needs assessment will be conducted in conjunction with each of the awardees. The UNAOC and the BMW Group will then mobilize resources to help those projects achieve their goals. After one year, a comprehensive evaluation will be performed in order to assess the impact of the Award on successful projects.

The organizations of awardees will also become members of Intercultural Leaders, an exclusive skills and knowledge-sharing platform for civil society organizations and young leaders that work on addressing cross-cultural tensions. Through an innovative online system, Intercultural Leaders will harnesses the solidarity of its members to maximize the impact of their work and help them foster cross-cultural understanding and cooperation.

Deadline: **30 September 2015**. For more information and to apply: <https://interculturalinnovation.org/the-award/>

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(Open for Applications) Global Fund for Women Grants for Women Empowerment  
The Global Fund for Women is accepting Letters of Interest (LOI) from women or women-led organizations for the grant. The Global Fund for Women invests in women's groups that advance the human rights of women and girls to strengthen women-led groups based outside the United States.

Grant Information

Grants provided by the Global Fund for Women range from \$5,000 to \$30,000 per year for operating and project expenses. First-time grant awards generally range from \$5,000 to \$13,000 per year.

### Focus Areas

- Zero Violence – The goal is to end gender based violence. The organization fund and advocate for women’s and girls’ participation, empowerment, and peace building while challenging laws, policies, cultures and behavior that perpetuates discrimination, violence and abuse.
- Economic and Political Empowerment – The goal is to make all women economically secure and independent and support by policies ensuring women’s and girls’ equal rights to resources, livelihoods and political voice.
- Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights – The goal is to make women and girls free to make their own reproductive and sexual choices. Sexual and reproductive health services and information are readily available.

### About

Global Fund for Women is a grantmaker and a global advocate for women’s human rights. It helps to advance the movement for women’s human rights by directing resources to and raising the voices of women worldwide. It invest in local, courageous women and women-led organizations, and create digital advocacy campaigns on critical global issues for women and girls.

### Eligibility Information

- Organization should be based in a country outside the United States. US based organizations are not eligible.
- Primary focus should be advancing women’s equality and human rights, these goals must be clearly reflect in its activities.
- A group of women working together are eligible. Requests from individuals are not accepted.
- Applying organization must be governed, directed, and led by women. Women must fill all or most of the leadership roles.

Deadline: **1 September, 2015**. For more information and to apply: <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/information-for-applicants>

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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 monthly emails. 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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