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November 1, 2012

Dear Friends,

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

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Call for Proposals) Urgent Action Fund- Africa  
(Call for Proposals) The NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment  
(Call for Applications in May 2013) VGIF's Small Grants for Grassroots Projects  
(Resource) Day of the Girl Website & Toolkit

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(Call for Proposals) Urgent Action Fund- Africa

UAF- Africa provides financial and technical support for strategic interventions that take advantage of opportunities to advance women's human rights in situations of conflict and post conflict; precedent setting legal or legislative interventions and protection of women's human rights defenders who are persecuted because of their work. Such opportunities arise when an unexpected event (positive or negative) creates a situation in which rapid intervention can have a significant impact. Grant proposals must be strategic, unanticipated, time urgent, sustainable and supported by known groups.

For more go to: [http://www.urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=15&Itemid=15](http://www.urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15&Itemid=15)

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(Call for Proposals) The NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment

The NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment aims to empower African women with the financial resources needed to unlock their economic potential, fight poverty, create wealth and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, economic growth and sustainable development. The Fund provides grants to support projects that are aimed at empowering African Women and promoting gender equality. The NEPAD Spanish Fund disburses

10 million Euros to various projects in Africa every year. Current grants range from 30,000 to 500,000 Euros. So far the Fund has disbursed grants to 46 projects in 23 Countries.

For more go to:

<http://www.nepad.org/humancapitaldevelopment/womenempowerment/about>

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(Call for Applications in May 2013) VGIF's Small Grants for Grassroots Projects.

The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) is providing small grants for grassroots projects that empower women and girls in developing countries with small grants.

VGIF provides small grants for grassroots projects that empower women and girls in developing countries.

We support women's organizations based outside of the United States by providing small grants for an array of community needs up to \$7,500 USD.

What VGIF supports:

- Community development
- Health and nutritional support
- Literacy and leadership training
- Educational seminars and workshops
- Women's human rights
- Organizations that are governed and directed by women.

VGIF does not consider requests for the following:

- Individual scholarships and tuition
- Political organizations
- Religious groups unless the proposed project contributes to the general good of the community
- The construction of permanent buildings or the purchase of land
- Salaries for board members and permanent staff but may include stipends/honoraria for external resource people/trainers.

For more go to: <http://www.vgif3.org/projects2tier/index.asp>

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(Resource) Day of the Girl Website & Toolkit

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2011 to establish October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child. The term "girl child" is commonly used abroad to distinguish the unique challenges faced by those under

age 18 from those faced by women.

According to the UN, this annual girls' rights Day will "help galvanize worldwide enthusiasm for goals to better girls' lives, providing an opportunity for them to show leadership and reach their full potential."

Annabelle, a seventh grade leader of School Girls Unite, says "For such a long time, people have disrespected us, and have thought men are superior. But this is our time. We need to protect our rights."

### **Sources on Girls' Issues**

To make it easier for you, we have put together a lot of information in one place on the LEARN page at [www.DayOfTheGirl.org](http://www.DayOfTheGirl.org). Here is a snapshot of some major crises facing girls and sources are included at the website.

### **ILLITERACY**

By 2015, females will make up 64% of the world's (adult) population who cannot read.

### **SCHOOL DROPOUT**

Only 30% of girls in the world are enrolled in secondary school. In America, the dropout rate is worse for boys, but one in four girls does not finish high school, and the dropout rate is even higher for minorities.

### **FORCED MARRIAGE**

One in seven girls in developing countries is married off before age 15.

### **VIOLENCE**

In the US more than half (54%) of all rapes of females happen before age 18. One in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner. Worldwide children as young as age 11 are forced to work as prostitutes. Some estimates have as many as 1.2 million children being trafficked every year.

### **BODY IMAGE**

More than half (54%) of 3rd-5th grade girls worry about their appearance and 37% worry about their weight. Mo

re than half (57%) of music videos feature a female portrayed exclusively as a decorative, sexual object.

On our website you will find 10 brief reports that give an overview on issues that girls face locally and globally.

Negative Media Images by Anika, 19 <http://dayofthegirl.org/girls-issues/negative-media-images-of-girls-and-teens/>

Title IX Sports & Education Equity Guaranteed by Torie and Julia, both 16 <http://dayofthegirl.org/girls-issues/title-ix-sports-education-equity-guaranteed/>

US Girl Dropout Crisis by Mira, 20 <http://dayofthegirl.org/girls-issues/u-s-girl-dropout-crisis/>

Relationship Abuse Teen Dating & Domestic Violence by Joanne, 19 <http://dayofthegirl.org/girls-issues/relationship-abuse-teen-dating-domestic-violence/>

Sex Trafficking in America by Shannon, 19 <http://dayofthegirl.org/girls-issues/sex-trafficking-in-america/>

Limited Work Opportunities by Joanne, 19 <http://dayofthegirl.org/limited-work-opportunities/>

Girls Denied Education Worldwide by Shannon, 19 <http://dayofthegirl.org/girls-denied-education-worldwide/>

Global Gender-Based Violence by Shannon, 19 <http://dayofthegirl.org/girls-issues/global-gender-based-violence/>

Child Marriage Tragic Tradition by Mira, 20 <http://dayofthegirl.org/child-marriage/>  
Female Mutilation Human Rights Horror by Elena, 18 <http://dayofthegirl.org/female-genital-mutilation-human-rights-horror/>

Each of these reports identify dozens of organizations that have additional information. Also listed are videos such as PSAs about teen dating violence and the popular GiriEffect video about girls overcoming obstacles in developing countries.

You can also find a lot of other resources within your community. Many school districts are developing curriculum to combat gender-based violence and reduce the high school dropout rate, especially among Latinas. Public schools have a Title IX Coordinator whom you can ask about serious problems of sexual harassment or girls not having the same opportunities to participate in sports. Police departments can be contacted about sex trafficking, which is a growing problem from Atlanta, Georgia, to Portland, Oregon. Your State Human Rights Commission is another useful research hub to learn more about discrimination and what policies are being proposed or implemented. You're bound to find even more places once you start looking!

For more go here: <http://dayofthegirl.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/DayOfTheGirlToolkitSept2012.pdf> and <http://dayofthegirl.org>

[irl.org/](#)

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

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