



May 2, 2013

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) National Endowment for Democracy
(Resource) Community-Based Paralegals: A Practitioner's Guide

(Call for Proposals) Urgent Action Fund- Africa

Urgent Action Fund-Africa, a consciously feminist and women's human rights Pan-African Fund, established in 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya. As the first rapid response fund on the continent, UAF Africa adds value to the work of activists and civil society organisations focusing on women's active socio-political participation and visibility by leveraging resources and opportunities for critical engagements that advance women's rights. Committed to working across Africa, UAF-Africa builds broader alliances with partners at national, regional and international levels.

At UAF-Africa money is recognized as a fundamental tool in protecting and advancing women's rights and enabling their participation in crucial processes that contribute to shifting of power relations. 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. At UAF-Africa we ardently believe in the power of women to activate social change. The Fund has therefore positioned herself to strategically to bolster women's efforts, support them as agents of change and work with them to ensure deep and lasting transformation to an equal world for all.

To apply for funding from Urgent Action Fund- Africa, please download the relevant grant application below. We encourage applicants to read through our criteria carefully before submitting a proposal. You can apply in any of the five official AU languages i.e. English, French, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Arabic.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. To download the application, please visit: http://www.urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=29&Itemid=33

(Call for Proposals) National Endowment for Democracy

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world. Each year, NED makes more than 1,000 grants to support the projects of non-governmental groups abroad who are working for democratic goals in more than 90 countries.

Each year the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) makes direct grants to hundreds of nongovernmental organizations worldwide working to advance democratic goals and strengthen democratic institutions.

NED is interested in proposals from local, independent organizations for nonpartisan programs that seek to:

- 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

All applications must include the following items:

- **Proposal Cover Sheet**
This form collects basic organizational information.
- **Proposal Narrative**
This is the written description of the project you would like to conduct with NED funds. Please follow the Proposal Guidelines. You may prepare the

Proposal Narrative in English or your local language. Proposals should be approximately 10 pages in length.

- **Interim Assessment (for renewal proposals only)**
This is an assessment of your organization's previous NED grant, if any. It should be included as part of the proposal narrative.
- **Proposal Budget**
This is the financial description of the project you would like to conduct with NED funds and should correspond to the activities in the Proposal Narrative. Please follow the Additional Guidance and use the Budget Template whenever possible.
- **Registration Documents (if applicable)**
Please include your Certificate of Registration or other documentation showing the legal status of your organization.

If your organization is not registered, this documentation is not required. Instead, please include an explanation (in the Proposal Cover Sheet) as to why your organization is not registered and the status of any pending applications for registration.

NED makes funding decisions on a quarterly basis. To be considered for the next round of funding, apply by **June 21, 2013**. To apply: <http://www.ned.org/grantseekers>

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

From Open Society Foundation's website:

Paralegals can be a powerful tool of justice, helping to resolve disputes and empower individual clients and whole communities. Living and working in the communities they serve, community-based paralegals combine their knowledge of the formal justice system with mediation and community education to help the poor and marginalized address their justice problems.

Less expensive than lawyers, and often able to generate results outside of and more quickly than the formal legal process, community-based paralegals are especially effective in transitional, post-conflict, and developing countries. In Sierra Leone, for example—where there are only 10 judges and about 100 lawyers to meet the justice needs of over three million people—paralegals help resolve land disputes, negotiate divorce settlements, and hold government officials accountable. Perhaps more importantly, community-based paralegals can educate whole communities about their rights, increasing citizens' agency and helping them demand more from their governments.

This how-to guide provides information on all aspects of establishing and operating a

community-based paralegal program, from assessing a community's needs to training paralegals and resolving justice problems. The book includes case studies, training curricula, client intake forms, and other materials drawn from paralegal programs in Cambodia, Hungary, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and elsewhere.

Community-Based Paralegals: A Practitioner's Guide should be useful for anyone who wants to start a new paralegals program, improve an existing one, or learn more about paralegals and the legal empowerment of the poor.

For more information and to download the guide, please visit: <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/publications/community-based-paralegals-practitioners-guide>

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.

For more information contact:

Firelight Foundation
740 Front Street, Suite 380
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 USA
www.firelightfoundation.org
+1 831-429- 8750