

7 July, 2011

Dear Friends,

This episode is inspired by the recent revision of the International Federation's recommendations against compulsory female sterilization.

Female sterilization can take many forms (by severing fallopian tubes, clamping tubes, or fully removing the tubes) all of which are major surgeries. While some women elect to have this procedure willingly and after being well-informed, many women across the world are subjected to this surgery as a form of dictated birth control by governments, cultural practices, or medical practitioners. Just like any other human right, the right for a woman to control what happens with her sexual reproductive organs belongs to the individual.

The resources below will help guide you to understand more about fertility rights and other relevant issues.

Sincerely,

Firelight Team

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*Call For Proposals: Be Fair Awards*

*Call for Applications:*

*United States Institute of Peace Annual Grant Competition*

*Call for Applications: Shuttleworth Foundation Fellowship Program*

*Call for Applications: African Women's Development Fund Grants*

*Call for Participation: World Pulse: Have Your Voice Heard*

*Resource: IHRFG's Directory of Human Rights Funders*

*Resource: Working With Young Women*

*Resource: International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education*

*Resource: Start with a Girl Report*

*Resource: International Federation Releases Stronger Guidelines on Female Sterilization*

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## **Be Fair Awards**

With this call for proposals the Trade for Development Centre invites organisations

established in developing countries that are engaged in Fair Trade to participate in a contest to win the BE FAIR Award focused on the development of Fair Trade within the domestic market and/or in markets of other developing countries. The BE FAIR Award prize money is in the amount of EUR 5,000. Deadline is 19 August, 2011.

For more information, go here: <http://www.befair.be/>

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## **United States Institute of Peace Annual Grant Competition**

The Annual Grant Competition:

- supports innovative peacebuilding projects involving research, the identification of promising models and effective practices, the development of practitioner resources and tools, the development and delivery of education, training and dialogue programs, and the production of films, radio programs, and other media.

- funds projects focused on preventing, managing, and resolving violent conflict and promoting post-conflict peacebuilding in settings outside the borders of the U.S. Awards support activities that apply across a broad range of relevant disciplines, skills, and approaches. USIP welcomes proposals of an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary nature.

Topic areas of interest to USIP include, but are not limited to:

- Conflict analysis and prevention;
- Mediation and conflict resolution;
- Postconflict peace and stability operations;
- Religion and peacemaking;
- Women and girls in conflict and peacebuilding;
- Rule of law and transitional justice;
- Economies and conflict;
- Social, psychological, and physical impacts of war and conflict;
- Media and conflict.

Annual Grant Competition facts:

- The Annual Grant Competition is extremely challenging and

grows harder each year. In the 2010 cycle 512 applications were submitted. The number of grant awards has remained about the same 20-25 per year.

- The awards generally range from \$50,000 to \$120,000.
- The deadline is October 3, 2011.

For more information, go here: [http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/annual-grant-competition#Eligible Grant Recipients](http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/annual-grant-competition#Eligible_Grant_Recipients)

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## **Shuttleworth Foundation Fellowship Program**

Who can apply

- Anyone who has a plan for social change through innovation (fresh thinking that adds value) in the areas of education and technology.
- Anyone who has a clear vision of a changed (improved) world and their contribution to bringing about this change.
- The fellowship is not limited to any specific geographic location.

However, applicants must be fluent in English.

- Fellowship applicants must have attained the age of majority by the date of application.

Which topics/disciplines

The Foundation does not have strictly defined areas of funding as we have found this restrictive as people do not always fit into boxes.

Previous successful applications have come from individuals working in the following areas:

- Communication and Analytical Skills in Education
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Open and Collaborative Educational Resources
- Telecommunications
- Open Philanthropy
- Open Science

The fellowship is not an academic fellowship aimed at research, although research is not excluded. Preference will be given to action based research or practical implementations of innovative ideas.

For more information, go here: <http://www.shuttleworthfoundation.org/funding/fellowship-programme/>

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## **African Women's Development Fund Grants**

**AWDF GRANT-MAKING GUIDELINES**The AWDF funds local, national, sub-regional and regional organisations in Africa working towards women's empowerment. The AWDF is an institutional capacity-building and programme development fund, which aims to help build a culture of learning and partnerships within the African women's movement. In addition to raising money and awarding grants, the AWDF will attempt to strengthen the organisational capacities of its grantees.

- The AWDF funds work in six thematic areas:
- Women's Human Rights
- Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods
- Governance, Peace and Security
- Reproductive Health and Rights
- HIV/AIDS
- Arts, Culture and Sports

The AWDF will prioritise programs which develop and promote women's leadership and advocacy across all these themes. These thematic areas have been chosen because they feature very highly on the agenda of the African women's movement.

Who can apply?

- Organisations can be local, national, sub-regional or regional African women's organisations, from any part of Africa.
- Local women's organisations should send in the names of two referees, one of who should be a member of a women's organisation that operates nationally.

What types of grants do we support?

- The AWDF will give grants for projects related to any of the thematic areas specified above. We expect applicants to build in relevant and reasonable running/core costs into their project proposals.
- We will give grants to national and regional organisations for aspects of organisational growth and development such as strategic planning, developing fundraising strategies, communications systems, retreats, governance systems, etc.
- We will give grants for capital costs such as purchase of computers, printers, photocopiers.

Frequency of grant making

AWDF will make grants in three cycles each year. Applications can be sent in at any time.

For more information, go here: <http://www.awdf.org/the-process/grant-making/grant-application-guidelines>

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### **World Pulse: Have Your Voice Heard**

In Our Own Words: Standing Up Have you ever stood up for yourself? For someone else? For a cause you believe in? Have you ever gotten back on your feet after being knocked down? Do you have a story about assuming leadership? About keeping integrity in a difficult situation? We are back with a new call for entries for our popular My Story department, this time on the topic of “Standing Up.” We invite you to submit your own personal story about “Standing Up”—however you interpret this phrase—for a chance to be published in our upcoming print magazine, themed Uprising. Selected entries will be featured in My Story, the section of World Pulse Magazine where women around the world share their personal stories describing pivotal experiences in their lives, in their own words. Everyone who participates will self-publish their story on our social networking website, PulseWire, and 6-8 stories will be chosen for publication in the Summer/Fall 2011 edition of World Pulse Magazine. The top three stories, in addition to being published, will receive a \$100 honorarium and everyone whose stories are chosen for publication will receive a copy of the magazine.

For more information, go here: <http://www.worldpulse.com/pulsegwire/programs/mystory>

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### **IHRFG's Directory of Human Rights Funders**

The International Human Rights Funders Group is a global network of donors and grantmakers committed to advancing human rights around the world through effective philanthropy.

They have collected hundreds of funders all across the globe that focus on Human Rights and other issues.

To access this vast database, go here: <http://www.ihrfg.org/funder-directory-search>

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### **Working With Young Women**

Founded in 1997, Promundo is a Brazilian non-governmental organization (NGO) that seeks to promote gender equality and end violence against women, children and youth.

Based in Rio de Janeiro, Promundo works locally, nationally and internationally to:

- > Conduct research related to gender equality and health
- > Implement and evaluate programs that seek to promote positive changes in gender norms and behaviors among individuals, families and communities
- > Advocate for the integration of these initiatives and a perspective of gender equality in public policies

On February 1st, 2011, Instituto Promundo opened its representation in Washington DC, USA. The office supports Promundo's international communication, advocacy and technical assistance, and coordinates global work of the MenEngage Alliance.

The manual attached entitled "Working with Young Women" includes more than 30 activities to carry out group work with young women (ages 15 to 24) on gender identity, relationships, sexuality, reproductive health, motherhood and caregiving, drugs, work and preventing and living with HIV and AIDS.

For more information, go here: <http://www.promundo.org.br/en/>

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## **International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education**

These publications from UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization are based on a rigorous review of evidence on sexuality education programmes and are aimed at education and health sector decision-makers and professionals.

Volume I focuses on the rationale for sexuality education and provides sound technical advice on characteristics of effective programmes. A companion document (Volume II) focuses on the topics and learning objectives to

be covered in a 'basic minimum package' on sexuality education for children and young people from 5 to 18+ years of age and includes a bibliography of useful resources.

For more information, see the attachment entitled "International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education" or go here: [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=47268&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=47268&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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### **Start with a Girl Report**

Improving the health of adolescent girls in the developing world is the key to improving maternal and child health, reducing the impact of HIV, and accelerating social and economic development.

Start with a Girl: A New Agenda for Global Health sheds light on the realities of girls' health and wellbeing in developing countries, on the links between the health of girls and the prospects for their families, and on the specific actions that will improve health prospects for millions.

This report describes the most prevalent and serious health problems adolescent girls face in developing countries, linking them to a combination of specific public-health risks and social determinants of health. It highlights the diverse ways in which governments and non-governmental organizations have sought—often successfully, albeit on small scale—to break vicious cycles of ill health. Finally, and most importantly, the report lays out an ambitious yet feasible agenda for governments, donors, the private sector, and civil society organizations—complete with estimates of indicative costs.

For more information, see the attachment entitled "Start with a Girl", or go here: <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1422899/>

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### **International Federation Releases Stronger Guidelines on Female**

## Sterilization

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) has released strong new guidelines on “Female Contraceptive Sterilization,” recognizing the long history of forced and coerced sterilization of marginalized women and providing detailed recommendations for when and how consent to sterilization can be obtained. The updated guidelines specify:

- Only women themselves can give ethically valid consent to their own sterilization. Family members, including husbands and parents, legal guardians, medical practitioners, and public officials cannot consent on their behalf.
- Sterilization should not be performed within a government program or strategy that does not include voluntary consent.
- Health care providers should not initiate judicial proceedings for sterilization of their patients or serve as witnesses in such proceedings.
- Sterilization to prevent future pregnancy is never an emergency procedure and does not justify departure from general principles of free and informed consent.
- Consent to sterilization should not be made a condition of access to medical care, such as HIV/AIDS treatment, delivery of a baby, or termination of pregnancy, as well as any other benefit, such as medical insurance, social assistance, employment, or release from an institution.
- Consent to sterilization should not be requested when women are vulnerable, such as when requesting termination of pregnancy, going into labor, or in the aftermath of delivery.
- Women considering sterilization must be informed that it is a permanent procedure, which does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases, and provided information on non-permanent options for contraception.
- Information should be provided in language women understand, through translation if necessary, in plain, non-technical terms, and in an accessible format, including sign language or Braille.

The guidelines further recognize the importance of protecting women’s access to sterilization while ensuring consent. Forced sterilization is an “act of violence,” necessitating an ethical response by health care providers. However, voluntary sterilization is an important reproductive option for women, and once an informed choice has been made, barriers to sterilization should be minimized.

Forced sterilization is clearly an ongoing problem for vulnerable women—especially poor women, racial and ethnic minorities, women living with HIV, and women with disabilities. All too often, medical workers and government officials take it upon themselves to deem these women “unworthy of reproduction.”

During the past year and a half, advocates working to stop forced and coerced sterilization in different parts of the world and among different populations have

come together to share information and strategies and collaborate on advocacy as part of the Campaign to Stop Torture in Health Care. The Campaign has established a Working Group to Stop Forced/Coerced Sterilization, and engagement with FIGO has been one of its strategies. While the new FIGO guidelines are a critical step to end the injustice of forced sterilization, they are just a start. It is now up to Ministries of Health and national policymaking bodies, medical institutions, and health care providers to incorporate them into practice.

To access the report, go here: <http://www.stoptortureinhealthcare.org/news-and-resources/forced-sterilization/female-sterilization-guidelines>

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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).