

18 January, 2011

Dear Friends,

The Newsflash! is a day late this week. That is because yesterday was a national holiday for us as we celebrated the life and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: activist, human rights leader, and inspiration for a better world.

Many of you contribute to efforts that bring about peace, human equality and respect for life for all individuals and we celebrate you as well. Please enjoy this Newsflash!, in dedication to human rights workers worldwide.

Sincerely,
Firelight Team

- (Call for Nominations) 2011 RFK Human Rights Award
- (Call for Applications) The Global Disability Rights Library
- (Call for Applications) TED Fellows Program
- (Call for Proposals) IFAR's Professional Development Grants:
- List of small grant funders
- Community-based Paralegals: A practitioner's Guide
- (Article) Social justice philanthropy revisited

- (Article) Tanzania: Statement on clashes in Arusha
- HIV Clinical Resources

2011 RFK HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD: MAKE A NOMINATION

Robert F. Kennedy believed that each individual holds the power to invoke change, that a single voice has the ability to declare an iniquity, and that each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope. In the spirit of Robert Kennedy's ideals, The Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award was established in 1984 to honor these courageous and innovative individuals striving for social justice throughout the world.

The recipients are chosen through an extensive annual selection process. Every year from January until February, the public is invited to nominate creative and courageous non-governmental human rights defenders and organizations. A panel of five independent judges then selects the honoree. The recipients are awarded based on their dedication and accomplishments towards social justice and their non-violent and creative tactics used to achieve their goals. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2011.

For more, go here: <http://www.rfkcenter.org/2011hra>

The Global Disability Rights Library

The Global Disability Rights Library project announces a call for organizations to apply to receive a free digital Global Disability Rights Library (GDRL).

Applications are open to disabled people's organizations, universities, and agencies in developing countries. Sixty organizations will receive the digital library to empower them to disseminate valuable disability rights knowledge and toolkits to their communities.

The goal of the GDRL project is to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in developing countries. The project uses an innovative "internet in a box" technology to deliver digital resources to people beyond the reach of the internet.

Users will include disabled people's organizations (DPOs), decision makers, individual advocates, and others who cannot easily download information from the web.

Ideal deployment site candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to promoting and facilitating disability rights. Successful applicants will have the organizational capacity to become a hub for disseminating disability rights information and will be inclusive of a diverse disability community.

For more, go here: <http://www.usicd.org/index.cfm/global-disability-rights-library>

(Call for Applications) TED Fellows Program

TED Fellows Program is designed to bring together young world-changers and trailblazers who have shown unusual accomplishment and exceptional courage. The program targets individuals from the Asia/Pacific region, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Middle East, though anyone from anywhere in the world, age 18 and over, is welcome to apply.

Forty Fellows will be recruited each year. Of those Fellows, 15 will be selected for the extended, two-year Senior Fellows program.

TED2011 Conference timeline:

June 21, 2010 - TED2011 Fellows applications OPEN

August 20, 2010 - TED2011 Fellows applications CLOSE

TED in Oxford

2011 TEDGlobal Conference timeline:

January 17, 2011 - TEDGlobal 2011 applications OPEN
March 11, 2011 - TEDGlobal 2011 applications CLOSE

For more, go
here: http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/forum/topic/show?id=780588%3ATopic%3A351325&xgs=1&xg_source=msg_share_topic

IFAR's Professional Development Grants:

In support of its mission, IFAR annually provides small grants to professionals from national agricultural research systems in developing countries (NARS). The award made to the youngest woman grantee each year will be designated the Ravi Tadvalkar Memorial Scholarship, in recognition of the many contributions to the organization by IFAR's first Treasurer and Secretary, his commitment to capacity building in developing countries, and his concern about diversity and gender issues.

IFAR also manages the IFAR Wilfried Thalwitz Scholarship established in his memory by the family and friends of the late CGIAR Chair for research linked with CGIAR Centers.

Nominations for these awards must be sponsored by one or more CGIAR Centers, and the work programs proposed by applicants must be closely linked with the program of a CGIAR Center. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with Center scientists when preparing their project proposals for submission to IFAR. Deadline is 15 March 2011.

For more, go here: <http://www.ifar4dev.org/fellowships/index.html>

List of Small Grant Funders

Our former-Firelight family member, Jennifer Lentfer, has written another blog on the importance of funding at the grassroots. Her blog is important and substantive, covering many of the challenges competition smaller groups face when seeking funding. At the very end, she has included a comprehensive list of organizations that fund at the grassroots.

For more, go here: <http://www.how-matters.org/2011/01/13/small-grants-part-2/>

Open Society Foundation: Community-based Paralegals: A practitioner's Guide

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, go

here: http://www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/focus/legal_capacity/articles_publications/publications/paralegals-manual-20101208?utm_source=Open+Society+Institute&utm_campaign=660e0affbc-news-20110114&utm_medium=email

(Article) Social justice philanthropy revisited
Influencing policy at a pan-African level
Bhekinkosi Moyo
Pambazuka News 2011-01-11, Issue 512

TrustAfrica is an established African foundation set up to work on the continental level 'explicitly on issues with regional and continental dimensions'. Bhekinkosi Moyo discusses the organisation's background and strategy.

For the article, go here: <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/comment/70021>

(Article) Tanzania: Statement on clashes in Arusha
Tanganyika Law Society
Pambazuka News 2011-01-13, Issue 512

Two people were killed on 5 January when the Tanzanian police force opened

fire on supporters of political party Chama Cha Demokrasia who were engaged in a peaceful protest in Arusha. The Tanganyika Law Society has issued a statement condemning the use of excessive force by police and calling on the government to uphold and strengthen the rule of law and good governance.

For the article, go here: <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/advocacy/70051>

HIV Clinical Resource website: New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute

"This site is a collaborative effort between the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, Office of the Medical Director, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases.

"Our Mission: To serve as a central, online resource that equips individuals who provide services to HIV-infected individuals with current, state-of-the-art tools to ensure delivery of the highest quality HIV clinical care.

These tools include:

- * Clinical Guidelines for the medical management of children, adolescents, and adults with HIV infection;
- * Best Practices related to HIV clinical care;
- * Educational Tools including teaching slide sets on HIV-related topics;
- * Quality Improvement Materials;
- * HIV-specific quality improvement software; and
- * Clinical Performance Data."

Although this site and these resources are geared towards US policies and sometimes higher level health care providers, many of their resources can be useful and adapted for use on the ground. Particularly useful are the resources for Mental Health Screening. As indicated by their mission, mental health is just one aspect the site covers. Some tools can be administered by health care professionals, and some can be directly used by the patients.

The link below is a complete list of tests and indicators New York recommends for their medical facilities in regard to mental health. Not all of the tools are provided on the site, but many have links to the tools. You can easily pick and choose which tools are relevant to your organizations.

For more, go here: <http://www.hivguidelines.org/clinical-guidelines/hiv-and-mental-health/appendix-i-mental-health-screening-tools/>
or here: <http://www.hivguidelines.org/resource-materials/>

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.