23 May, 2011

Dear friends,

This week we chose to focus on HIV and stigma. Stigma remains one of the biggest challenges when addressing HIV and requires a change in knowledge, behavior, and attitudes. Many of the resources today come from Stigma Action Network's website, which can be an extremely helpful resource for any organization dealing with people infected with or affected by HIV. Hopefully these resources can help your organizations approach issues of stigma when interacting with PLHIV, families, children, and communities.

Sincerely,
Firelight Team

Many resources from SAN

-- (Call for nominations) The Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger
-- (Call for nominations) Connecting Women Mediators and Peacemakers in Africa
-- (Resource) TechSoup's Refurbished Computer Initiative
-- (Resource) Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) and PLHIV Stigma Index
-- (Resource) Southern African AIDS Trust publications
-- (Resource) Promoting Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Stigma, Discrimination and Human Rights
-- (Toolkit) Understanding and Challenging HIV Stigma: a toolkit for action
-- (Training) Reducing Stigma and Discrimination Related to HIV and AIDS: Training for Health Care Workers
-- (Website) Stigma Action Network

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(Call for nominations) The Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger

In 1987, The Hunger Project launched the Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger to call forth the committed, effective leadership that Africa desperately needs. The Africa Prize celebrates, acknowledges and honors the accomplishments of individuals who have exhibited extraordinary leadership for the end of hunger.
Nominations are due by 31 May, 2011.

For more information, go

here; http://www.thp.org/what_we_do/key_initiatives/honoring_africa_leadership/
overview

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(Call for nominations) Connecting Women Mediators and Peacemakers in Africa

This is an invitation to nominate women leaders and activists in conflict
engagement and economic progress from Africa to participate in the "Connecting
Women Mediators and Peacemakers in Africa" program. Please respond by 30
May 2011.

We are asking you to nominate women leaders and activists in conflict
engagement and economic development from Africa to participate in the
"Connecting Women Mediators and Peacemakers in Africa" program in Cape
Town, South Africa, from October 6-7, 2011. Vital Voices Global Partnership will
pay for all travel and accommodation costs of the participants during the course
of the program. We are initially targeting African women leaders and activists for
this first phase of the program, with the intent to incorporate men into the network
in subsequent phases. To meet the specific goals of this first phase, we are also
initially targeting women who have a conversational level of either English or
French.

To nominate a participant, please send the following information to Carey Hogg,
Vital Voices' Political Program Officer at careyhogg@vitalvoices.org by 30 May
2011:

    * Nominee's full name, title, and organization affiliation
    * Nominee's brief biography (1-2 paragraphs), specifying nominee's dispute
resolution experience
    * Nominee's contact details (especially telephone numbers and e-mail
addresses).

We are prepared to consider self-nominations; and also nominations of more
than one person. Please also feel free to indicate other organizations to which
we should forward this request for nominations.

For more information, go here: http://www.vitalvoices.org/node/1617

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TechSoup's Refurbished Computer Initiative

TechSoup's Refurbished Computer Initiative (RCI) is a pioneering program
bringing high-quality refurbished computers and other hardware to nonprofits and
libraries. We are focused on creating environmentally friendly alternatives to

disposing of used equipment by developing partnerships with computer refurbishers who bring industry expertise and a commitment to serving the social benefit sector and also with corporations who want to meet their philanthropic goals through effective redistribution of their used equipment.

Eligible organizations can choose from a range of high-quality refurbished computer systems and other refurbished technology. While supply for the program is subject to availability, each piece of hardware offered through RCI comes from top manufacturers — including Dell, HP, and IBM — and is designed to meet the rigorous standards of corporate users, not home users. All equipment is guaranteed to be in excellent working condition by our refurbisher partners and has undergone thorough testing, repair, restoration, and cleaning.

As with many refurbished computer products, RCI equipment is classified as either Condition A, meaning that it meets the highest functional and cosmetic standards of refurbished equipment, or Condition B, meaning that it might have cosmetic defects that do not affect its operability. All refurbished equipment available through TechSoup is Condition A unless Condition B is specified in the product name. Refurbished computers arrive ready to use, with a Windows operating system already installed and, for many, a Microsoft office software suite as well. All peripherals such as power cords, mice, and keyboards are included. The administrative fee includes all taxes, shipping, and handling.

When RCI computers finally reach the end of their useful life or become obsolete, they are eligible for free recovery and recycling services.

For more information, go here: http://home.techsoup.org/stock/pages/category.aspx?category=RCI&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=npa

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Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) and PLHIV Stigma Index

The People Living with HIV Stigma Index provides a tool that measures and detects changing trends in relation to stigma and discrimination as experienced by people living with HIV.

The Index is a joint initiative of organizations who have worked together since 2004 to develop this survey. These include:

- The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+);
- The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW);
- The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); and
- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

People living with HIV are at the centre of the process as both interviewers and interviewees and as drivers of how the information is collected, analyzed and used. The Index is designed to increase the understanding of how stigma and discrimination is experienced by people living with HIV. The data gained can then be used by the national implementing partners to shape future programmatic interventions and policy change.

The process for implementing the index in each country is unique, drawing on the strengths and diversity of the different partners. The international partnership guiding this work asks that each country implementation partnership remains committed to the ethos of the Index overall ensuring that it remains by, and for, people living with HIV. To learn more about the Index, please visit the website.

For more information, go here: http://www.gnpplus.net/en/programmes/human-rights/plhiv-stigma-index

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Southern African AIDS Trust publications

SAT's communications and publications have two key purposes:

	• to support increasing competence and capacity of partner organisations and volunteers and to guide them in their work;
	• to be a medium of sharing experiences and knowledge.

In implementing communications and publications, SAT is focusing on:

	• guidelines and tools for CBOs and volunteers;
	• documenting results from action research for advocacy and policy influence;
	• collating debates, conversations and thinking from SWW activities into the "SHARE series" to be disseminated across the region;
	• internal and external newsletters to keep SAT staff, partner organisations and other stakeholders up to date on SAT intentions, positions and actions.
Note: Publications listed here are in PDF format. You will need Adobe Acrobat to access them.

Many of SAT publications are available in both English and Portuguese. A compilation of our publications are also available on CD-ROM.

There are four main categories of SAT publications: lesson-sharing and advocacy, skills training, SAT information, and additional resources. There are training manuals, and a skills training series for counseling guidelines.

For more information, go here: http://www.satregional.org/publications

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Promoting Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Stigma, Discrimination and Human Rights

An international knowledge synthesis meeting took place in June 2003, bringing together programme leaders from a variety of countries to discuss stigma, discrimination and human rights in relation to young people sexual and reproductive health.The goal was to identify instances of innovative and effective practice with the intention of drawing out some principles that might inform future work. Participants represented a variety of projects, programmes and activities in developing and transitional countries, with a focus on resource-constrained settings. Representatives from a number of NGOs and one university discussed their experiences of challenging stigma and discrimination and promoting human rights in relation to young people's sexual and reproductive health.

For more information, go here: http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/reports/Stigma.pdf

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Understanding and Challenging HIV Stigma: a toolkit for action

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is a global research institute with headquarters in Washington, D.C., and regional offices in Nairobi, Kenya, and New Delhi, India. We also have a project office in Mumbai. ICRW is comprised of social scientists, economists, public health specialists and demographers, all of whom are experts in gender relations. We are thought leaders driven by a passion to alleviate poverty and rectify injustice in the world. And we believe that women and girls – in collaboration with men and boys – are essential to the solutions. We know that when their quality of life improves, families are healthier and economies are stronger.

Evidence from an ICRW-led multi-country study in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia shows that the key causes and consequences of HIV/AIDS-related stigma have many more similarities than differences across contexts. Using research findings and lessons learned, ICRW worked with various partners to create a stigma-reduction toolkit.

The original toolkit, developed by ICRW and the CHANGE project, is a collection of participatory educational exercises to raise awareness and promote action to challenge HIV stigma. Trainers can select from the exercises to plan their own courses for different target groups, including AIDS professionals and community

groups. The aim is to help people at all levels understand stigma and develop strategies to challenge stigma and discrimination.

A revised edition builds on the original toolkit and includes the experience of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance's Regional Stigma Training Project. New modules address stigma as it relates to treatment, children and youth, and men who have sex with men.

For more information, go here: http://www.icrw.org/publications/understanding-and-challenging-hiv-stigma-toolkit-action

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Integrating Stigma Reduction into HIV Programming: Lessons from the AFrica Regional Stigma Training Programme

This document from International HIV/AIDS Alliance illustrates lessons learned from implementing the toolkitUnderstanding and Challenging HIV Stigma across Africa. The toolkit was produced for and by HIV trainers in Africa to help trainers plan and organise educational sessions with community leaders, or organised groups raise awareness and promote practical action to challenge HIV stigma and discrimination. Intended audiences include: NGO support programmes, Training organisations, Individual trainers, INGOs, NGOs, CBOs, Policy makers, Donors.

For more information, go here: http://www.aidsalliance.org/publicationsdetails.aspx?id=90523 or see the attached document

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Reducing Stigma and Discrimination Related to HIV and AIDS: Training for Health Care Workers

Stigma and discrimination related to HIV and AIDS are almost as old as the pandemic itself, and with HIV or AIDS results in poor quality of care for those who are infected or ill (or suspected of b effective HIV prevention efforts by limiting individuals' access to and use of health care services. countries, access to and use of these lifesaving services will depend on the degree to which hea

To address these serious issues, EngenderHealth has developed Reducing Stigma and Discrimi curriculum offering a unique training opportunity for health workers in countries hardest hit by the of the root causes of stigma and discrimination while helping them to understand their own attitu attitudes might affect the care they offer. The training also provides a review of clients' rights in r

proper infection prevention techniques to help minimize the risk of occupational exposure to HIV. learned into practice at their service settings.

For the trainer manual, go
here: http://www.stigmaactionnetwork.org/web/guest/document?view=object&loc
=/db/Domain/277759/Data/277779/Atom/UC-Contribute-277779-10113-
20110222-094750&id=9e13338c-34c8-4d50-80c4-ea4e78621a49

For the participant's guide, go
here: http://www.stigmaactionnetwork.org/web/guest/document?view=object&loc
=/db/Domain/277759/Data/277779/Atom/UC-Contribute-277779-10113-
20110222-094750&id=0767a1a0-4a26-48b5-a7a3-07ed5ab504c4

For the trainer manual in French, go
here: http://www.stigmaactionnetwork.org/web/guest/document?view=object&loc
=/db/Domain/277759/Data/277779/Atom/UC-Contribute-277779-10113-
20110222-094750&id=332b3e46-c84c-48c0-a2f4-1e9bedebae6a

For the participant's guide in French, go
here: http://www.stigmaactionnetwork.org/web/guest/document?view=object&loc
=/db/Domain/277759/Data/277779/Atom/UC-Contribute-277779-10113-
20110222-094750&id=eba1d341-b34d-404a-908f-352c1fe011ca

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Stigma Action Network

Stigma and discrimination remain seriously neglected issues in the global response to HIV, despite more than a decade of evidence showing that reducing stigma and discrimination is crucial to ensuring the success of HIV prevention, care and treatment efforts. Stigma and fear of stigma increase the likelihood that people will avoid getting tested for HIV, disclosing their status to partners, seeking care and adhering to treatment.

The idea of a global network to galvanize HIV stigma and discrimination reduction efforts came out of a meeting convened by the MAC AIDS Fund (MAF) and The International Center for Research for Women (ICRW) in November 2008 that brought together experts from the program, research, policy, advocacy and donor sectors. At the meeting, participants reviewed what works to reduce HIV stigma and discrimination, identified key barriers and opportunities for a coordinated response, and agreed upon the top priority of creation of a global

network.

Launched at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna in July 2010, SAN is a collaborative endeavor that aims to coordinate efforts to develop and expand program, research and advocacy strategies for reducing HIV stigma worldwide, including mobilizing stakeholders, delivering program and policy solutions, and maximizing investments in HIV programs and services globally. SAN aims to be a "one-stop shop" for programmers, researchers, policymakers and advocates for sharing and learning about the latest tools, technical resources, research findings and new initiatives on HIV stigma and discrimination reduction – information that is critical for avoiding duplication of efforts and advancing the field.

For more access to their e-library and more information, go here: http://www.stigmaactionnetwork.org/web/guest/home

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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.