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Monthly Quote:

“As Deputy Secretary General and as a woman from Tanzania, one of the most affected countries in this region-I will do everything in my power to ensure that the issue of women and AIDS is high on the International community’s agenda, where it belongs.” Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro in her key note address on the official opening of the 2007 YWCA Women’s Leadership on HIV & AIDS Summit, Nairobi, Kenya.

Your Voice

Global Call to Stop Cervical Cancer: hope for African women and girls

By Magdalene Wanjugu and Rachel Kagoiya

Last month, speaking at a media briefing at the World YWCA International Women's Summit on Womens Leadership and HIV/AIDS held in Nairobi, Kenya Sophie Dilmitis, the World YWCA HIV/AIDS Coordinator reported that the link between HIV and cervical cancer has long been recognized with HIV positive women being four times at risk of contracting cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) and affects more than half a million women every year, resulting in more than a quarter million deaths. Sadly, due to gross disparities between wealthy and poor countries in accessing prevention through screening tests and treatment of cervical cancer, more than 80% of the cases and deaths from cervical cancer occur in developing countries, making it the most common cancer-related cause of death for women in these countries.

A coalition of civil society, world political leaders and public health professional/ organisations attending the international meeting announced the launch of the Global Call to Stop Cervical Cancer under the theme *Global Call: HIV and Cervical Cancer in Women in Developing Countries*. The Global Call is a world wide movement that aims to end cervical cancer by mobilizing political support to ensure that every woman and girl has rapid access to vaccines and new tools for screening and treatment. During the launch, HIV activists and cervical cancer activists were encouraged to learn from one another and share strategies to expand access to prevention and treatment. The Call also urges governments to prioritize cervical cancer in national development and health budgets, calls on multilateral agencies to ensure accelerated regulatory processes, appeals to international donors to ensure new vaccines and diagnostics are widely available and calls upon industry to provide adequate supplies of new technologies at radically tiered prices.

Cervical Cancer is entirely preventable, but due to extremely limited access to screening and treatment, cervical cancer is the most common cause of cancer-related deaths for women in developing countries. Daisy Mafubelu Assistant Director General Family and Community Health, WHO said there was a need to prioritize girls and young women including their mothers who have to give consent for them to access the vaccine. She also added that there is a need to create an empowering space whereby women can talk about cancer. "Cervical cancer, like HIV and AIDS, affects many women in Africa. African women must therefore play a leading role in prevention efforts" said Dr Musimbi Kanyoro, former Secretary General of the World YWCA. "AIDS activists have taught the world that there is a moral imperative to provide access to prevention and treatment services. We must extend these lessons to cervical cancer." As part of the events meant to popularize the Global Call, the European Commission is organising a meeting in September 2007 to fully engage political leaders in fight against cervical cancer. Organisations and individuals around the world are invited to show support by signing on to the Global Call available at www.cervicalcanceraction.org.

All in all, the World YWCA International Women's Summit (IWS) was a unique space for the over one thousand women of all ages and HIV statuses to meet and discuss the impact HIV and AIDS has on women and recognise the leadership women from across the world have demonstrated in bringing a solution to the pandemic. It also provided an opportunity for all the stakeholders and partners to further build skills, strengthen existing partnerships and create new networks in order to mobilise the changes needed to reverse the global HIV pandemic on women and girls at all levels. Notably, fourteen selfless and outstanding women leaders from various countries were honoured with awards for their efforts in responding to HIV/AIDS in their various communities. The President of the Republic of Kenya, Honourable Mwai Kibaki and the President of the World YWCA, Monica Zetzsche presented them with the awards.

Prior to the IWS, the 26th World YWCA Council elected its new World Board members made up of 55% young women under 30 years old, who will represent their respective regions and serve as the governing board of the World YWCA for the next four years. The new World YWCA president elect is Susan Brennan from Australia and the World YWCA general secretary designate is Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda from Zimbabwe. For more information visit: <http://www.worldywca.info>

Magdalene Wanjugu and Rachel Kagoiya, FEMNET's Communications Programme.

Regional Briefs

Financial Support for Female Candidates in Cameroon

Forty-six female municipal candidates who head the list of their political parties and seventy-eight female candidates who are incumbent members of parliament from all the political parties for the upcoming municipal and legislative elections have received financial support from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family. The Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family, Suzanne Mbomback said it is a solidarity move organised by the government to support all female candidates. To read the full article visit: <http://www.afrika.no/Detailed/14738.html>

Mass Male Circumcision - What will it Mean for Women?

Women's voices have gone largely unheard in the debate on male circumcision as an HIV prevention method, but informal discussions with women reveal a range of concerns, preferences and views that researchers and governments would do well to consider before drawing up plans for rolling out a national circumcision programme. In an unscientific poll, IRIN/PlusNews found a high degree of ambivalence among wives, girlfriends and mothers about the implications of a mass male circumcision campaign. "It's going to be an advantage for women who are married to men who are cheating," said Carol Masombuka, 19, a Sesotho woman from Mpumalanga Province, in South Africa, zeroing in on the fact that even the partial protection circumcision provides could make a difference to women who are powerless to insist on condom use. To read the full article visit: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73285>

Protection for Displaced Civilians in Eastern Chad

As EU Foreign Ministers discuss the possible deployment of a UN mandated EU force to Chad to protect Sudanese refugees, Amnesty International urges that the Chadian victims of internal violence are not forgotten. Over 170 thousand displaced people have sought refuge in the Eastern part of the country as a result of the violence and human rights abuse carried out by Janjaweed militia and rebel movements....displaced women and girls are in particular danger, with rape and violent assault being regularly carried out by members of militias, armed groups and even government soldiers, with complete impunity. To read the full text visit: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/MCON-75D373?OpenDocument>

Forced Marriage Appeal May Influence ICC

Appeal against forced marriage acquittals at Special Court for Sierra Leone might have bearing on ICC prosecutions. The chief prosecutor for war crimes in Sierra Leone is preparing to appeal the acquittals of three military leaders accused of forcing women into marriage, in a move that he hopes could help bring convictions on similar charges at the International Criminal Court. To read the full article visit: http://www.iwpr.net/?p=acr&s=f&o=337374&apc_state=henh

SOAWR public forum

Since 2005 members of the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition have attended the African Union (AU) Summits to ensure that the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa remains on the agenda of policy makers and to urge all African leaders to safeguard the rights of women through ratification and implementation of the Protocol. This year, amongst other pre-summit activities, SOAWR organized the Public Forum under the theme "*Is it possible to have a United States of Africa without Women? What form would be meaningful for African Women?*" For the forum report, send an email to admin@femnet.or.ke

Zimbabwe's women face increasing brutality

Women who oppose Robert Mugabe's regime in Zimbabwe are suffering increasing violence and repression, a study says. Amnesty International claims that female demonstrators can be subjected to arbitrary arrest, beatings and in some cases torture in police custody. The human rights group, which interviewed dozens of activists, urged the country's authorities to "stamp out any discrimination against women". Zimbabwe is in the grip of a severe economic crisis. Shops are running out of even the most basic items and inflation is approaching 5,000%. To read the full text visit: <http://news.amnesty.org/index/ENGAFR460232007>

International Briefs

India's President Vows to Fight for Women, Unborn Girls

India's first woman president sworn into office on 25 July 2007 promised to fight for the rights of women and put an end to the widespread practice of aborting female foetuses. Pratibha Patil, 72, who won 65% of the votes cast, also said that the country's hundreds of millions of poor should reap the benefit of India's blistering economic growth of over 9 percent. "India stands at the threshold of a new era of progress, and it should be a combined endeavour. We must ensure that every section of society are equal partners in the development process," she said. To read the full article visit: <http://www.metimes.com/storyview.php?StoryID=20070725-064837-2489r>

'Protect Our Future' - AIDS Drugs Needed for Children

The 4th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention held on the 25th July 2007 concluded with a call to have antiretroviral drugs developed specifically for HIV-infected children. As many as 2.3 million children are living with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), with around 600,000 new infections each year. Over 780,000 children need antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, but only 15 percent of the global need is being met. In sub-Saharan Africa, children represent 14 percent of people who need antiretroviral treatment, but only six percent of those receive it. To read the full article visit: <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=38661>

Women Leaders Speak Out on Global AIDS Fight

Congresswoman Betty McCollum joined several women leaders from around the world to ask why women and girls, despite years of knowing that they are central to winning the fight against AIDS, are not regularly included in key decision making. "If you want to know what needs to be done, ask me," says Esse Akonjom of the Positive Development Foundation in Nigeria. "I'm a positive woman living with AIDS and I can tell you what we need in my country." The speakers emphasized that the prevention, treatment and care of women and girls must be a top funding priority for the proposed \$30 billion reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which is expected to happen in 2008. To read the full article visit: <http://www.icrw.org/html/news/news.htm>

Police Plea on Female Genital Mutilation

The Metropolitan Police is offering a £20,000 reward for information which would bring to justice anyone involved in female genital mutilation. The campaign is being launched at the start of the summer holidays, during which young girls - mainly from African communities - are thought most at risk...Up to 7,000 girls in the UK are seen as at risk of this form of circumcision. Egypt, where as many as 90% of women have been circumcised, has just announced a full ban on the practice after a 12-year-old girl died last month. To read the full article visit: <http://news.bbc.co.uk:80/2/hi/health/6291218.stm>

UN human rights chief hails work of women's anti-discrimination committee

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Louise Arbour praised the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as it marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of its work in monitoring States' compliance with a landmark treaty on the issue. The 23-member expert body is tasked with ensuring that 185 States parties meet their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the 1979 treaty – also known as CEDAW – often described as an international bill of rights for women. She noted that "the Convention had introduced the notion of substantive equality for women, emphasizing that although there may be no overtly discriminatory laws, women are not considered equal until they enjoy, in fact and in reality, the same opportunities and privileges as men," To read the full article visit: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=23308&Cr=women&Cr1=>

Vacancies

Position: Principal Gender Specialist

Organisation: African Development Bank

Location: Tunis, Tunisia

Closing date: August 13, 2007.

Brief Job Description: The incumbent among other duties will be required to enforce Bank gender policy in managing the project portfolio: comment on gender policy documents submitted for consideration and formulate review proposals with relation to Bank priorities and participate in working groups to ensure that gender issues are adequately treated in documents prepared by departments. For more information visit:

http://www.afdb.org/portal/page?_pageid=473,970768&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Position: Deputy Director

Organisation: Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Location: New York, NY, USA

Closing date: August 15 2007

Brief Job description: WEDO's Deputy Director works in close partnership with the Executive Director, providing institutional leadership and helping to run WEDO on a day-to-day basis. In particular, the Deputy Director will oversee program planning and implementation and supervise program staff. The Deputy Director will also have primary responsibility to oversee finance, administration and technology programs.

For more information visit: <http://wedo.org/aboutus.aspx?mode=jobs>

Position: Reproductive Health Coordinator

Organisation: UNFPA

Location: Darfur, Sudan

Closing Date: 16 August 2007

Brief Job Description: Under the overall management of the UNFPA Representative and the direct supervision of the Country Office Emergency Coordinator the incumbent will perform among other duties: Manage, supervise and coordinate the overall Emergency Programme at the State level, Provide leadership/support at the state level in terms of RH coordination; facilitation and liaison in order to improve RH response and overall UNFPA mandate in the humanitarian crisis. For further details on the job description visit:

<http://www.unfpa.org/about/employment/va-fpa-085-2007.htm>

Position: Gender Programme Development Adviser

Organisation: Progressio

Location: Harare, Zimbabwe

Closing date: 19 August 2007

Brief Job Description: The incumbent will work as a Gender Programme Development Adviser with the coalition in the development, capacity building and implementation of its Gender-Based Violence programme. For further details visit:

http://www.progressio.org.uk/progressio/internal/94318/gender_programme_development_adviser/

Position: Gender Issues Coordinator

Organisation: Geneva Call

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Closing date: 20 August 2007

Brief Job Description: The candidate will be responsible for the coordination of the gender programmes of Geneva Call, and for managing the inputs of colleagues and a team of volunteers. He/she will be based in Geneva but will be expected to conduct field missions to a selection of medium and high- risk countries covered by the programme. Flexibility will mean that the staff member may be relocated to another country, depending on the needs of Geneva Call. For more information visit: <http://www.genevacall.org/vacancies-gender.pdf>

Position: Senior Program Officer, International Policy

Organisation: The International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)

Location: New York, NY

Closing Date: 15 September 2007

Brief Job Description: The goal of the IWHC's international policy work is to influence policies, programs and budgets at the global level to support the sexual and reproductive rights and health of women and girls. S/he will among other duties participate in a unique, ongoing initiative that is reshaping the global HIV/AIDS response to better meet the needs of women and girls, and contribute to overall design, implementation and monitoring of IWHC's sexual and reproductive rights and health international policy program together with President, Vice Presidents, and Senior International Policy Advisor. For more information visit:

<http://www.iwhc.org/jobs.cfm#director>

Call for Action

The 13 Campaign Launched in Kenya

The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) launched The 13 Campaign in Kenya during the YWCA International Women's Summit. The Campaign is a fundraising and outreach initiative to mobilize resources for its HIV/AIDS Fund and it encourages people and groups to mobilize 13 others to make donations to the HIV and AIDS Fund with the number 13 in mind (USD 13 to 13,000,000). The Campaign was first launched at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada in August 2006. It was then introduced in Accra, Ghana in September 2006. Kenya is the third stop for the Campaign. As a symbolic gesture, AWDF aims to introduce its flagship campaign in 13 countries over the next three years. For further information visit:

<http://www.13campaign.org/>

Calendar of Events

2nd Annual Connecting Rural Communities Africa Forum 2007

Date and Venue: 21st – 24th August 2007, Nairobi, Kenya

The 2nd Annual Connecting Rural Communities Africa Forum 2007 will bring together African government officials, senior figures from African regulatory authorities and international ICT experts who are leading the private sector connectivity drive to discuss key challenges, opportunities and benefits of connecting rural Africa. For further information visit: <http://www.events.cto.int/crcafrica07>

WITFOR Forum

Date and Venue: 22nd - 24th August 2007, Addis Ababa

Under the theme "*ICT for Development and Prosperity*" the World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR) 2007 aims to help implement information development strategies and projects in developing countries. This will move the World Summit on the Information Society's (WSIS) Plan of Action a step forward, by converting policy statements to actual, implemental projects that should help developing countries to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals. For further details visit www.witfor2007.org

APC-Africa-Women and Women's Net: Digital Storytelling

Dates and Venue: 25-29 August 2007, South Africa

APC-Africa-Women, in partnership with Women'sNet will be organizing a digital storytelling workshop. This workshop is aimed at women who document (as content developers, librarians, archivists, journalists, mediators, translators, information activists etc.) the lives of women affected by violence in Africa. Participants will develop short videos reflecting their experiences as women documenters, and how they are affected and transformed. For further information visit: http://www.apcwomen.org/eng_index.shtml

Making Cents International: Youth Micro enterprise Conference

Date and Venue: 10th - 11th September 2007, Washington, DC

This interactive learning event marks the first gathering ever of the world's leading experts and practitioners in youth micro enterprise, entrepreneurship and livelihoods development. Participants will share experiences, promising practices and ideas on how to effectively reduce poverty, vulnerability and unemployment experienced by many young people around the world. For further information visit:

<http://www.ymeconference.org/>

Gender Festival 2007

Dates and Venue: 11th – 14th September 2007, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The 2007 Gender Festival is an open space for bringing together feminist and gender-focused groups, other civil society organizations, institutions, activists and other development actors working at various levels to meet, reflect and strategize on the progress made in feminist struggles for gender equity, social transformation and participatory democracy in Tanzania. Discussions will take into account the present context of corporatized globalization and 'free market' ideology, and their impact on development and democracy in Africa and the world over, and examine alternative frameworks and strategies. The main theme is: “*Gender Democracy and Development: African Feminist Struggles in the Context of Globalization*”. For detailed information send an email to: info@tgnp.org or visit <http://www.tgnp.org/Ogf.htm>

4th International Gender Conference

Date and Venue: 17-21 September 2007, Elmina, Ghana

The Gender Development Institute (GDI) will be organizing the 4th International Gender Conference under the theme “Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: a Social Nightmare Provoking Action”. GDI strongly believes that no positive and sustainable change can occur unless the problems of Gender Equity are analysed within the framework of Public Health, Human Rights and Human Security. Indeed, it is only when all aspects of society have equal rights and there is mutual recognition and respect of these rights, that there can be an all encompassing and equitable development for all. For more information visit:

http://www.stopvaw.org/4th_International_Gender_Conference.html

Call for Papers/Submissions

Call for Participation: Building African Women’s Movements

Application Deadline: 18th August 2007

Dates and Venue: 19-22 November 2007, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Just Associates (JASS), in partnership with Action Aid International and Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) is organising a four day movement-building institute around “Building African Women’s Movements”. Invitations are invited from women who are living with or who have been engaged in HIV/AIDS activism for at least 3 years and are working in a diverse range of activities, organisations and movements. For more information visit:

www.civicus.org/new/media/Call-Participation-BuildingAfricanWomen- Movements.doc

Cartoon Contest on Africa: No Opportunities, Continent of Crises or Renaissance

Application Deadline: 26th August 2007

The cartoon contest is meant to contribute to a critical discussion of these ambiguous images which partly date back as far as the early years of colonialism and the times of the slave trade. Contributions of highly appreciated creative ideas to overcome prejudices and clichés about the African continent are invited. Many of the cartoons sent in will find their way into the print media, especially into daily newspapers, since Africa is increasingly being covered. The image of Africa is also an important subject in development education. A special publication will be produced and the cartoons will be presented in the contest website www.cartoon-competition.org and other relevant websites. For further inquiries email: dwjn_jw@rediffmail.com

CODESRIA's 6th Session on Child and Youth Studies Institute

Application Deadline: 31st August 2007

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is pleased to announce the sixth session of its Child and Youth Studies Institute and invites interested scholars to send applications for consideration for selection as laureates, resource persons, and director in the session which is scheduled for October 2007. For further information, contact child.institute@codesria.sn or visit:

<http://www.codesria.org>

Call for papers: African borderlands and frontiers

Application Deadline: 1 September 2007

Dates and Venue: 22nd – 24th November 2007 Leuven, Belgium

The Belgian Association of Africanists organizes an international conference on "Borderlands and Frontiers in Africa". It welcomes contributions from scholars across the humanities and social sciences working in and on Africa, and it especially welcomes contributions by African scholars. The conference will focus on frontiers, borders, and boundaries in Africa, and especially on the many ways people throughout the continent deal with them. For further information visit: <http://www.gdnet.org/middle.php?oid=253>

Call for Applications: Civil Society Practitioners in the Global South

Application Date: 26 September 2007

The Oxford Internet Institute (University of Oxford) invites applications from the global South to fill two places in its Civil Society Practitioners Programme. This visitor programme is intended for Civil Society Practitioners of distinction or outstanding promise who wish to visit the Institute for a period of six weeks between February and December 2008, to undertake research concerning the social impact of the Internet and related ICTs. For further information visit: <http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/microsites/cspp/>

International Course: Training the Trainers (Radio, Television & Internet) RNTC Application Deadline: 1 October 2007

The course runs from 19th May to 28th June 2008, and aims to strengthen the capacity of trainers, training organisers and educators working in or for the broadcast sector to assess training needs and design, develop and deliver effective and efficient training solutions. These training solutions will enable broadcast organisations to meet the challenges of increased competition, technological change and professional mobility and to improve the quality and appropriateness of their output. For further information visit:

http://www.rnw.nl/rntc/studyatrntc/rntc_ttt_2008.php

Second round of Essay Competitions

Deadline for Submission: 15 October 2007

As part of its Interventions series, CODESRIA invites younger researchers enrolled in post-graduate programmes in African universities or who have completed their doctoral research not more than five years ago to submit essays of between 10,000 and 12,000 words on the subject of the *Decolonising the Social Sciences in Africa: the Unfinished Agenda*. The essays could address any issue of concern with regard to the decolonisation of social science research in Africa, including the general themes and schools which have shaped the reorientation of social science research in Africa, the major figures who have had an outstanding impact on the development of social science research in Africa, and possible new pathways for strengthening the practice of critical social science research and knowledge production in Africa. For further information email: interventions.series@codesria.sn or visit: <http://www.codesria.org>

Call for Application: Human Rights Fieldwork - Principles, Strategies and Skills

Course Duration: 27 October - 3 November 2007

Application Deadline: Rolling

The International Human Rights Network (IHRN), a NGO supporting others in applying Human Rights Based Approaches in their work since 1996, invites development and humanitarian aid workers, civilian/military peace-keepers, NGO and IGO field staff to its "Human Rights Fieldwork: Principles, Practice and Skills" course. The training will explore the principles underpinning effective human rights

fieldwork and enhance the skills of participants needed to carry this out safely before, during or after armed conflict. For further information visit: www.ihrnetwork.org/hr-fieldwork.htm

African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Deadline: Rolling

This awards programme supports small, community/rural based grassroots women's groups that would otherwise not be able to access AWDF'S main funding programme. Beneficiaries should be running projects which fall within AWDF's 5 thematic areas: Women's Human Rights, Political Participation, Peace Building, Health, Reproductive Rights and HIV/AIDS, and Economic Empowerment. For further information visit:

<http://www.comunit.com/funding2007/grants2007/funding-123.html>

Awards

2007 Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) Competition

Deadline for submission: 20 August 2007

Submissions are welcome for the Global Development Network's annual competition for the Most Innovative Development Project, which carries prizes in cash and travel of over US \$50,000! Submissions are accepted for an ongoing development project implemented in a developing or transition country. Criteria include the degree of innovation and the potential for broad application of the project in other countries. For further information visit: <http://www.gdnet.org/2007awards>

Gruber Foundation: Women's Rights Prize

Deadline for Nominations: 31 December 2007

Only candidates who have been officially nominated on a fully completed nomination form will be considered for a Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation International Prize. Self-nominations are not accepted. The Chair of each Selection Advisory Board ensures that nominations are of sufficient caliber to merit consideration prior to the meeting of the Board. If a nomination passes the Chair's review, it remains active for three years unless the nominee is selected to receive the prize or is voted off by the Board. After the third year of eligibility, further consideration of a nomination requires that it be resubmitted. For further information, please visit <http://www.gruberprizes.org/Nominations/WomensRights.php>

Fellowship/Scholarship Opportunities

USA Fellowships for Print Journalists

Application Deadline: 15 August 2007

Applications are now available for the annual Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships, which bring 10 journalists from the developing world to the United States. The 2008 program is scheduled to run from mid-March through September. Fellows get the opportunity to learn about American journalistic standards and ethics, working alongside reporters and editors in newsrooms across the country. The fellowship covers housing, living expenses, and program-related travel. Eligible candidates must have at least three years of professional experience and wield excellent command of written and spoken English. The program is aimed at early- and mid-career journalists who work for independent print media in their home countries. For more details, contact info@pressfellowships.org or visit <http://www.pressfellowships.org>.

2007 Human Rights Fellowship Programme for Students from Least Developed Countries

Deadline for Applications: 20 August 2007

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) have established a Human Rights Fellowship Programme for Students from Least Developed Countries (LDC). The overall objectives of this project are to increase the understanding of the LDC fellows of current human rights issues at the international level and give them an insight into the work of the United Nations and OHCHR and also to provide OHCHR and the United Nations human rights mechanisms with the assistance and contribution of outstanding students or graduates from LDCs. For further information visit: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/ldcfellowship.htm>

Abe Fellowship Program

Closing Date: 1st September 2007

The Abe Fellowship is designed to encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern. The program seeks to foster the development of a new generation of researchers who are interested in policy-relevant topics of long-range importance and who are willing to become key members of a bilateral and global research network built around such topics. Applications are welcome from scholars and non-academic research professionals. For further information visit: <http://fellowships.ssrc.org/abe/>

Research Fellow Partnership Programme (RFPP)

Deadline for Applications: 30th September 2007

RFPP is a grant scheme providing PhD and post-doctoral fellowships in diverse disciplines. PhD-fellowships are funded for three years, post-doctoral fellowships for two years. For further details visit:

<http://www.rfpp.ethz.ch/eligibility/index>

Resources

The Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa: an Instrument for Advancing Reproductive & Sexual Rights

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa was written to reformulate human rights protections in Africa to better reflect and incorporate women's experiences. According to this briefing paper, the Protocol represents the first time that an international human rights instrument has explicitly articulated a woman's right to abortion when pregnancy results from sexual assault, rape, or incest; when continuation of the pregnancy endangers the life or health of the pregnant woman; and in cases of grave fetal defects that are incompatible with life. The Protocol also calls for the prohibition of harmful practices such as female circumcision/female genital mutilation (FC/FGM), which have ravaged the lives of countless young women in Africa. To read the full document visit:

http://www.reproductiverights.org/pdf/pub_bp_africa.pdf

New report: 'Because I am a Girl: the State of the World's Girls 2007'

Plan International has just launched a new report 'Because I am a Girl: the State of the World's Girls 2007' which is the first in a series of annual reports examining the rights of girls throughout their childhood, adolescence and as young women. The report provides a comprehensive examination of the situation of the world's girls. Subsequent reports in the series will focus on specific violations of girls' rights and the mechanisms for securing them. To monitor girls' development and bring to life the inequalities buried in global statistics, the report introduces a cohort of approximately 135 girls in 9 countries, born in 2006. Plan will follow up with these girls for the next eight years and report on their progress and development throughout the report series. For the full document visit:

<http://www.plan-uk.org/becauseiamagirl/download/>

The Gender Dimensions of Post-Conflict Reconstruction: the World Bank Track Record

By: Elaine Zuckermann and Suzanna Dennis with Marcia E. Greenberg

In this report the authors evaluate development aid projects in Post-Conflict Reconstruction (PCR) situations including a sample of the World Bank's large PCR development loans and its small Post-Conflict Fund (PCF) grants. The authors suggest ways in which gender dimensions may promote gender equality and enhance PCR returns on investments, arguing that achieving successful reconstruction and maintaining peace requires attention to gender in the post-conflict arena. The report recommends that the Bank's post-conflict projects stop imposing harmful policy reforms such as public expenditure and civil service cutbacks that impoverish women and men in post-conflict and other investments; systematically address violations against women's rights; and promote gender equality to make peace work. For the full report visit:

<http://www.genderaction.org/publications.html>

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEMNET e-bulletin

We value your contributions, comments, and suggestions. Please send these to the Communications Officer at communication@femnet.or.ke or admin@femnet.or.ke