Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

At Tostan, I have seen innovative ideas develop into action with a lasting impact, whether it is utilizing men as key agents for supporting women's empowerment, exchanging ideas with forward-thinking social entrepreneurs, or educating female detainees in Senegalese prisons.

Recently, Matt Boslego, a Tostan team member in Guinea-Bissau, collaborated with local Tostan supervisors and facilitators to develop a simple yet creative solution to a community challenge. Many of the solar engineers in the community, who were expertly trained by our partner Barefoot College in India, found it difficult to articulate and find the replacement materials necessary for the communities’ solar panels in local languages. By relying on the technology and knowledge within the community, he was able to create a lasting resource to address this need. Find out what the solution was by reading our interview with Matt here. Also, please read on to learn what you can do for African communities this upcoming Mother’s Day.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Warm wishes,
Molly Melching
Executive Director

**West Africa Meets NYC: Tostan Leaders Visit Sauti Yetu**

Last month Tostan community activists Imam Demba Diawara and Abdoulie Sidibeh were invited to the Sauti Yetu Center for African Women in Bronx, New York to share their respective experiences advocating for women’s empowerment worldwide. Learning through their stories, all in attendance came to agree that gaining support for women’s rights is a vital concern for all, both men and women, young and old alike.

[Click here to read more on Imam Diawara and Abdoulie's visit to Sauti Yetu.](#)

**Bringing Hope and Optimism to Female Detainees in Senegal**

Reporting from the Maison d'Arrête et Correction (M.A.C.), a prison in Thiès, Senegal, the above video speaks to the important role of women and what their empowerment can mean for the rest of society, including the empowerment of female detainees, one of the more vulnerable populations in the world. [Click the image above to watch this video made by Tostan team member Alisa Hamilton.](#)

**Keys to Mobilizing Collective Action**

At this year's 2012 Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship Tostan's Executive Director Molly Melching joined Professor Christina Bicchieri from the University of Pennsylvania and Thérèse Dooley from UNICEF to

**Celebrate this Mother's Day with Tostan!**

Mother's Day is approaching quickly. Show a special woman in your life how much you care by making a contribution to Tostan in her honor. When we receive your donation, you can select one of [our unique greeting cards or e-cards](#) to be sent to her along with a
help explain how social norms uphold practices and expectations within societies. Both Molly and Thérèse also spoke on what their respective organizations did to afflict real and transformative change to harmful social norms & practices like female genital cutting (FGC) and open defecation.

Click here to listen to the audio recording of the Skoll panel on social norms.

personal message. Make a difference this May 13th and give mothers, grandmothers, and daughters the chance to be positive change agents in their communities.

Click here to make a donation and send your personalized Mother’s Day card.

Click on the icons above to donate and stay connected with Tostan.

To find out more about upcoming events and ongoing projects, please visit our website. Tostan is a US 501(c)(3) nongovernmental organization based in Senegal, West Africa.

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