



Newsletter

December 2013



557 communities in Senegal declare abandonment of FGC and child marriage

On November 24th, 557 communities in the department of Médina Yoro Foulah, Senegal publicly declared their abandonment of [female genital cutting](#) (FGC) and [child/forced marriage](#). At the event, participants shared what motivated them to abandon and how the declaration will have a positive impact on their communities.

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Tostan Founder shares what defines our work with CNN and Skoll World Forum

In [a new video](#) by CNN and [Skoll World Forum](#), our founder Molly Melching talks about the impact of Tostan's program and her experience living and working in Senegal. She also continues this discussion in [a new article published by CNN Opinion](#) in partnership with the [Skoll Foundation](#) entitled: "To change society, first change minds".

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'Generational Change' is at the heart of our Year-End campaign

From now until mid-January 2014 any gift you make to Tostan will go directly to our [Generational Change in Three Years](#) campaign. In addition, donations will be matched up to \$300,000 by the Greenbaum Foundation. With your help, we can end FGC in Senegal, reduce child marriage and violence against women and girls, and transform education for a generation of parents and children.

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Photo of the Month



Many of our partner communities, including [Sinthiang Demba, in Kolda, Senegal](#), use theater to spread messages of human rights at events with other communities.

Spotlight on our Partner Communities



Gambian Nurse Omar Cessay works with the local CMC to spread important health messages

Omar Cessay, a trained Community Health Nurse in Taibatou, The Gambia, works with the village's [Community Management Committee](#) (CMC) to share important health information, empowering others to prevent illness and disease and to seek health services at the Community Health Center when in need.

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Former Tostan program participant now helps lead reinforcement of parental practices work in Senegal

Siraba Traoré began as a participant in our [Community Empowerment Program](#) and is now the regional coordinator for our [Reinforcement of Parental Practices Module](#), a project run in partnership with the [Hewlett Foundation](#). Siraba works with communities in Ziguinchor, Senegal to help teach and reinforce practices which support children's early development. She explains: "the child's brain is like thousands of drawers that you must fill."

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Join the movement to impact 1.6 million lives!

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