



February 2012

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

This month, the global community focused its attention on a very important topic to Tostan and the communities with which we partner: the abandonment of [female genital cutting](#) (FGC). In particular, at an event this month commemorating International FGC Abandonment Day, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton reminded listeners of the immediate relevance the FGC abandonment movement has in all our lives, saying, "[FGC] affects the human family, and therefore, we all have a stake in it."



Click the image above to watch the ABC News video on Tostan's work in Senegal

[Watch a video of Secretary Clinton's remarks here.](#)

Echoing Secretary Clinton's remarks, ABC News published a feature video and article highlighting [Tostan's respectful approach](#) to fostering community dialogue, which has led nearly 6,000 communities to declare abandonment of FGC.

[Watch the ABC News video on Tostan's work in Senegal here.](#)

With the FGC abandonment movement gaining international visibility, it is the perfect time to read

about and share stories of success. Below you'll find a wonderful story about Tostan Facilitator Nafissatou Sabaly and the positive change she sparked in her community, along with other exciting updates and news.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm wishes,



Gannon Gillespie

Director of Strategic Development

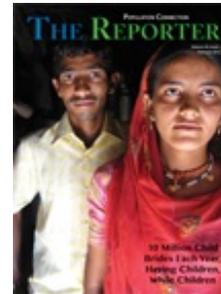
### **Taking Her Work Home With Her: Tostan Facilitator Sparks Change in Her Native Village**



Tostan Facilitator Nafissatou Sabaly sparked discussion both within her family, her native village, and throughout the social network linking the village of Néma Dianfo to neighboring communities in Senegal. These discussions catalyzed a major shift in community-wide opinion of the practices of [female genital cutting](#) (FGC) and [child/forced marriage](#).

Nafissatou describes her personal journey in a *Voices of Tostan* interview [here](#).

### **Population Connection's *The Reporter* Highlights Tostan's Work with Youth in The Gambia**



This February, the story of a youth-driven movement to bring community attention to social challenges and solutions in The Gambia will reach a global readership of over 45,000 people. Published as a feature article in the February edition of [Population Connection's \*The Reporter\*](#), the article, authored by Tostan Executive Director Molly Melching, highlighted the energy and success of the third annual [Tostan Gambia Youth Caravan](#).

[Click here to read and share the full digital copy of this month's issue of \*The Reporter\*](#). The article, entitled "Change From Within: Youth Leading Movement for the Abandonment of Child Marriage in The Gambia," begins on page 18.

## A Defining Moment in Bakel, Senegal Captured in World Next Door Article



Speaking publicly to her peers and elders on the importance of human rights, 11-year-old Diairi Soumaré from the village of Gabou, Senegal is

contributing to the growing community-led movement for the abandonment of [female genital cutting](#) (FGC) in Africa. In a two part series, [World Next Door](#) Journalist Laura Stump wrote about her experience witnessing Diairi and many other Tostan program participants declare their abandonment of FGC and applaud human rights for all.

To read about change agents like Diairi, [click here for Part One](#) and [here for Part Two](#) of Laura Stump's article.

## Tostan Ranked #41 on *The Global Journal*'s Top 100 Best NGOs List



Released in their Jan-Feb 2012 issue, [The Global Journal](#) ranked Tostan as #41 on their list of the top 100 leading actors in the nonprofit world. Through careful [analysis of criteria](#) including sustainability, innovation, and impact, this list

narrowed down and ranked the work of NGOs worldwide from 1,000 to 100. *The Global Journal*'s final list serves to spark discussion within the international development community and highlights the innovative efforts of organizations working to positively impact the lives of others.

To view the full list of *The Global Journal*'s Top 100 Best NGOs, [click here](#).

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Tostan is a US 501(c)(3) nongovernmental organization based in Senegal, West Africa.

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