



Newsletter

February 2014

74 communities in Guinea join the movement to abandon FGC and child/forced marriage

On January 26, representatives of 74 communities in Guinea publicly declared their decision to abandon the harmful practices of [female genital cutting](#) (FGC) and [child/forced marriage](#). They join 38 communities in The Gambia who had earlier that month declared to abandon and, 14 sectors in Yirimadio, Mali who are preparing to hold a public declaration of their own on February 6, the UN recognized [International Day for the abandonment of FGC](#).

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Religious leaders in Senegal prioritize healthy child development

Tostan works closely with religious leaders in Senegal to engage them in the work of our [Reinforcement of Parental Practices](#) (RPP) module. From January 20-21, religious leaders from 71 Wolof villages participated in a

Photo of the Month



Radio offers a unique opportunity to broadcast human rights information. Tostan Supervisor Binta Diao's [radio broadcasts](#) can be heard across Guinea-Bissau, southern Senegal and The Gambia.

workshop discussing early childhood development, and the role parents play in encouraging healthy development and how these practices support the teachings of the Koran.

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New study examines the effect of legislation on the abandonment of FGC

A recently published study by Bettina Shell-Duncan, Katherine Wander, Ylva Hernlund, and Amadou Moreau considers the impact of legislation as a tool for ending [female genital cutting](#) (FGC) and looked particularly at the impact of the 1999 law banning FGC in Senegal.

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Spotlight on our Partner Communities



Fish cleaner grandmother explains brain development at the Somone

When Tostan Founder Molly Melching went to the fish market near the Somone, she did not expect to meet a grandmother who had been through Tostan's [Reinforcement of Parental Practices](#) (RPP) module.

[Read Molly's Blog Here »](#)



Distributing solar kits to communities in Senegal

As part of Tostan's [Solar Power! Project](#), and in collaboration with the [Empowered Communities Network](#) (ECN), Tostan staff spent five days in the Senegalese villages of Kibassa, in the Kolda region, and Keur Sanou, in the Kaolack region, distributing 102 solar power kits. Two women from these villages spent six months at the [Barefoot](#)

[College](#) training as solar engineers, and now will be able to support their communities' access to electricity.

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Join the movement to impact 1.6 million lives!

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