



January 2012

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

At the beginning of the New Year, I take time to reflect on the year that has passed and to set goals for the future. In 2011, over 900 communities throughout East and West Africa declared that they will no longer engage in the practices of [female genital cutting \(FGC\)](#) and [child/forced marriage](#). Recognizing the incredible courage such a decision requires, the stories of these communities and Tostan's approach were acknowledged and shared globally through featured articles and video in *Newsweek*, the *Financial Times*, *PBS*, *National Geographic*, the *International Herald Tribune*, and *The New York Times*.



Youth and adults from Njum Bakary, The Gambia joined together to welcome guests to a public declaration held in the city of Basse in June 2011.

Our goal for 2012 is to build on the momentum that this movement for positive change is experiencing in Africa. If you will join me in this goal, you can contribute by spreading the word of these community-led successes and by encouraging giving amongst your friends and family to our [Matching Gift Campaign](#). We are currently 92% of the way to our goal to raise \$250,000 by January 31st!

DONATE NOW

I want to thank you for being a part of this movement for positive social change and wish you all the best in the coming year. For more news from Tostan's international offices, please scroll down.

Warm wishes,



Molly Melching
Founder and Executive Director

Mobilizing Mbamata: one woman's efforts to improve her extended community



"When I meet with a challenge," says Mbamata Jawneh, "that is when I have more courage to continue." Serving in

community leadership positions such as Lady President of Mane Kunda, Community Management Committee Coordinator, and Social Mobilization Coordinator, Mbamata takes on new challenges and, with determination and ingenuity, implements lasting community-led solutions.

To learn more about Mbamata and the successes she has led in her community, [click here](#).

"Achieving what we once thought impossible: an end to harmful traditional practices"



Featured as a guest author on the [Girls Not Brides](#) website, Molly Melching shares her experience witnessing the beginning of the movement to abandon

harmful practices in Africa and discusses what it takes to lead lasting social change.

To read Molly's article, "Achieving what we once thought impossible: an end to harmful traditional practices," [click here](#).

Award-winning documentary on Sister Fa released for public viewing, Jan 27



Combining the worlds of hip-hop and human rights, Senegalese-born rapper and Tostan partner [Sister Fa](#) breaks

the taboo of talking about FGC in public, inspiring youth and adults to discuss the practice in their communities. The new documentary, *Sarabah*, which follows Sister Fa's efforts in Germany and Senegal, premiered on LinkTV on January 15.

Sarabah will air again on LinkTV on Friday, January 27 at 9 pm EST/6 pm PST. [For more information on when and where you can watch this inspiring film, click here.](#)

Molly Melching included in Forbes Magazine List, Power Women for Women's Rights



As a follow-up to [Forbes Magazine's List of Power Women](#), *Half the Sky* authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

named Molly Melching, Tostan Founder and Executive Director, one of the top ten women who empower other women worldwide. Listed among others such as Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, Melching is honored for her work to ensure respect for human rights.

To see the full list, [click here.](#)

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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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