



June 2012

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

At Tostan, we see communities embrace lasting, positive change as they participate in the [Community Empowerment Program](#) (CEP) and collaborate with neighboring villages on collective goals. Through our [Empowered Communities Network](#) (ECN) we can help to strengthen those connections and facilitate partnerships that lead to sustainable, community-led development.

The ECN works with Tostan [Community Management Committees](#) (CMC) as they forge relationships with local, national, and international organizations dedicated to supporting locally-designed projects such as establishing community savings groups and solar power panels. [Learn more about these unique partnerships and others that have been created to date through the ECN here.](#)



Through the ECN, the CMC of Baliga, Senegal was able to access important resources for their community.

Read on to find out more about Tostan's latest projects and partnerships, including the inspiring story of Awa Fall, a former detainee of a prison in Thiès, Senegal who partnered with Tostan to train prisoners and guards in fabric dyeing as an income-generating activity.

Thank you for your continuing support. We could not continue these important programs without it.

Warm wishes,

Molly Melching

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Executive Director

Tostan Partners Engage Communities During *Education sans Excision* Tour



Using hip-hop music to raise awareness, Tostan's partners [Orchid Project](#) and [Sister Fa](#) traveled through Senegal last month hosting concerts,

facilitating community discussions, and building support for the FGC abandonment movement.

[Click here to learn more about their *Education sans Excision* \("Education without FGC"\) tour.](#)

From Detainee to Tostan Trainer



Awa Fall returned to the prison where she was formerly detained to train women in the same fabric dyeing skills that helped her to successfully reintegrate back into her community. These skills

can help to empower women financially during their imprisonment and after their release.

[Click here to read more about Awa Fall and Tostan's](#)

Tostan Wins Award in Maternal Health



On June 12, the [Cecilia Attias Foundation for Women](#) honored Tostan with an 'Award in Action' at [Dialogue for Action Africa](#) in Libreville, Gabon. The award recognized Tostan for our work to improve maternal healthcare at the community level.

[Click here to read Molly Melching's response to the award.](#)

Outstanding Supporter: Spreading Awareness through Artwork



Musician and long-time Tostan supporter Karien de Waal found a creative way to support Tostan and raise awareness about the FGC abandonment movement. In a year-long project, she

collected signatures and drew portraits of more than thirty celebrities. The finished canvas will be

[Prison Project.](#)

that they selected. The finished canvas will be auctioned, and all proceeds will go to supporting Tostan's work.

[Read more about Karien's generous contribution here.](#)

DONATE NOW



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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