Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

February 7th marked Tostan's 20th anniversary! Reflecting on this important milestone, I am struck by how much our programs have evolved due in large part to the leadership our community partners take every day by adapting Tostan's programs to their own development needs and goals.

Click here to read our 20th anniversary announcement.

We are currently implementing the Community Empowerment Program in eight countries, through which Tostan has supported communities in undertaking challenging development projects ranging from cell phone literacy to solar power. Along the way, I have been delighted to see our approach to community empowerment recognized as an innovative approach to sustainable social change. We are taking all of 2011 to celebrate our community partners, our dedicated staff, volunteers, and interns, and our global network of supporters. We're also redoubling our efforts to reach thousands of additional communities in the next 20 years.

Looking to the future, it is our hope that the CEP will continue to empower new
Warm wishes,

Molly Melching
Executive Director, Tostan

ANN! Encourages Action, Features Tostan

In January, Tostan was featured on Action Now Network! ANN is a social networking resource that presents global issues and organizations that are making a difference and aims to inspire dialogue, collaboration, and social mobilization. 

Click here to read the full feature!

February 6th: A Day for FGC Awareness

February 6th marked the annual day for the abandonment of female genital cutting (FGC). This day serves as a time to recognize the contributions of organizations around the world working to promote understanding about the harmful consequences of this practice and to encourage collaboration among these groups.

Click here to read more on Tostan's commemoration of this day.

Advocate Inspired by Recent Public Declaration

Julia Lalla-Maharajh, "passionate"

Join us on Twitter!

Tostan is close to 550 followers on Twitter! Now help us get to 1,000! Start following us today and get the latest updates from all Tostan offices.
passionate advocate" for the abandonment of FGC and founder of the Orchid Project, recently visited several communities where Tostan's Community Empowerment Program is in place. Her experience talking with community members and witnessing the excitement at Sare Ngai's public declaration left her energized, ready to continue working towards positive social transformation.

To learn more about Julia Lalla-Maharajh's experience, read these two excellent articles in The Daily Beast and The Huffington Post.

You can also follow us on Facebook, check out photo albums on Flickr, and watch Tostan films on YouTube.

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

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