June 2010

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

It is with great joy that I report to you that as the result of five brave women, 70 households, local mosques, and boutiques in rural Djibouti now have electricity! The Tostan Solar Power! Project, launched in collaboration with the Barefoot College in India, empowers women to provide sustainable, low-cost electricity for themselves and their communities.

In March of 2009, these five women travelled to India and spent six months at the Barefoot College learning how to install, maintain, and repair solar panels as well as to train other women to do so, thus strengthening and spreading the impact of the program.

To see photos from the Solar Power! project, click here.

Warm summer wishes,

Molly Melching
Executive Director, Tostan
Tostan Featured in a LA Times Article on FGC and the AAP

On May 29, Tostan was highlighted in a Los Angeles Times op-ed about female genital cutting (FGC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) reversal of its April 26, 2010 policy that suggested American doctors be allowed to perform a “nick” as a symbolic procedure. To read the full article click here.

Communities in Mauritania Publicly Declare Their Abandonment of FGC and Child/Forced Marriage

On May 25, 78 communities in the region of Brakna declared their decision to abandon FGC and child/forced marriage. This celebration marked the first of its kind to occur in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Click here for the full article.

A Strengthened Partnership between Tostan and UNICEF

Last month, Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF, visited the village of Keur Simbara in western Senegal. It was fitting for Mr. Lake to visit this community as Tostan and UNICEF were partners in the effort to bring human rights and responsibilities education in Keur Simbara and Senegal more generally over the past 19 years. Click here to read more.

Using Text Messages to Promote Literacy!

Tostan's Jokko Initiative Blog discusses the important role of SMS text messaging in helping individuals to practice literacy skills. To read more about how mobile technology is helping create sustainable social change, click here.

For the latest stories from Tostan, visit our blog and check out our pages on Facebook, MySpace, Flickr, and YouTube.

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

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