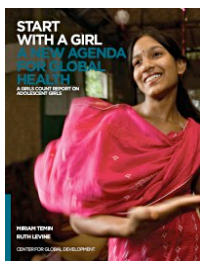


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Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

November 2009



In two ground-breaking reports released this month, Tostan's model of community-led development was highlighted as an innovative and effective model for development and women's empowerment. The two reports, one published by the Center for Global Development (CGD) and the other by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), advocate for action based on the involvement of women and the importance of innovation in development.

[Click here](#) to read more about Tostan in the CGD report, [Start with a Girl: A New Agenda for Global Health](#).



[Click here](#) to read more about Tostan in the ICRW report, [Innovation: for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality](#).

Remember to check for more exciting updates below!

Thank you for reading!

Sincerely,

Molly Melching  
Executive Director, Tostan

**The Jokko Initiative: Mobile Technology Amplifying Social Change**

**US Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues Praises the Tostan Model**



The Jokko Initiative, a Tostan partnership project with UNICEF,

At a US House of Representatives hearing on International Violence Against Women, US





aims to harness the power of accessible mobile technology to

better the lives of its participants in West Africa. Currently in the pilot stage, the initiative has already been hailed as bringing Tostan and UNICEF to the forefront of SMS-based innovation. To learn more about this exciting new project, [visit the Jokko Initiative Blog by clicking here.](#)

Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verveer, highlighted the Tostan model as an example of positive change for thousands of women in West and East Africa. Ambassador Verveer told representatives how Tostan empowers individuals to work together to identify problems in their communities and then mobilize to address them. [Click here to read more and to watch the full hearing!](#)



### Abandonment of Female Genital Cutting and Child/Forced Marriage in Senegal and The Gambia



The movement to abandon female genital cutting and child/forced marriage continued to grow in October. In the past month, 13 communities in The Gambia and 404 in Senegal publicly declared their commitment to abandon

these practices. [Click here to read about the most recent declaration in The Gambia.](#)

### New ways to get involved

Why not follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or take a look at our YouTube Channel, '[Tostan International](#)'?



To learn about the various ways you can get involved (free ways to donate, starting your own fundraiser, volunteering/interning or shopping for Tostan gear) visit our 'Get Involved' page at [www.tostan.org](http://www.tostan.org).

To help us take the Community Empowerment Program to more communities in West and East Africa, please donate now.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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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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