



World Alliance for Citizen Participation

e-CIVICUS

A Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter Promoting Civic Existence, Expression & Engagement

Please send contributions, comments and questions to editor@civicus.org.

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CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

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ABOUT e-CIVICUS

The CIVICUS weekly electronic publication is keeping tens of thousands of people informed of the developments taking place in civil society, the factors that are affecting them and the impact they are having on creating an informed and knowledgeable society.

e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

e-CIVICUS offers a useful channel

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY-GENERAL

Send your comments and contributions to editor@civicus.org.



Civil society at the centre stage of global poverty and inequality

By Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Sadly we continue to live in a world where poverty and inequality is growing. An unacceptable fact! For this week's column, I have asked my Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) colleague, Henri Valot, to write an article on the current state of global inequality. I invite you to review the column and, like me, become more inspired to take action. To read this week's column, [click here](#).



Is poverty the problem? No, it is the wealth!

By Henri Valot, GCAP Organisational Development Advisor

If you read the economic and development cooperation literature, you will read everywhere a call for pro-poor policies. But one should now question: is currently poverty the problem? Or is it the alarming rate of wealth and inequality growth, which are undermining any poverty-alleviation measures? There is something wrong and the fault does not lie on the Least Developed Countries or the poorest segments of our societies. The problem is not the poverty; the problem is the greed and the fact that speculation became dominant. Wealth is not necessarily a problem one will say, and it is the most common, universal quest. Right. But for all of us who are trying to understand what is going on, how can we conciliate all those information we receive? For more information, [click here](#).

Three years after Andijan killings, civil society even more restricted says CIVICUS

Three years after the killing of hundreds of protesters in the Uzbek city of Andijan, CIVICUS today called on Uzbek President Islam Karimov and his government to protect the rights of citizens and civil society to peacefully protest without threat. "Civil society in Uzbekistan continues to face severe restrictions in the exercise of its constitutionally protected freedoms of expression, assembly and association. In fact, following the tragic Andijan events, repression of critical voices has increased dramatically," said Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General. For more information, [click here](#).

Join us and complete e-CIVICUS Readers' Survey

By Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General

Deadline to complete the survey: 28 May 2008

As you may know, CIVICUS has been distributing its electronic newsletter, e-CIVICUS, to partners and CIVICUS members since 1999. This free weekly electronic publication keeps over 85,000 readers informed of the developments, influences, issues and impacts of civil society around the world. e-CIVICUS is available in English and in a number of different electronic formats such as html,

through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions no later than Tuesday for publication in the coming week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read the contribution guidelines, please visit www.civicus.org/new/media/e-civicuseditorialguidelines-finalDraft.doc.

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word, PDF and text. In order to maintain and improve on the delivery of quality information with regard to news, issues, debates, events and other key developments of civil society in the global arena, CIVICUS needs your feedback on e-CIVICUS. All survey responses will be kept strictly confidential and the results will be for internal use only. To complete the survey, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Do you agree that a mechanism to tax international financial transactions is a good revenue source for development?

To answer the question, [click here](#).

Previous question: Should governments make a greater effort to involve civil society and the private sector in tackling the current global food crisis?

Results: Yes - 86%, No - 10%, Don't Know - 4%

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT e-CIVICUS

The e-CIVICUS newsletter keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. As a subscriber you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work. So why keep it to yourself?

Do you have a friend who works for a more just world? Would you like to share this newsletter with them? Why don't you suggest they register for a free subscription?

They can send us an e-mail to subscriptions@civicus.org or fill out the subscription form [click here](#). Alternatively, please forward their e-mail address to KumiNaidoo.e-civicus@civicus.org and we'll contact them on your behalf. Please send us your contributions no later than Monday every week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

COUNTDOWN TO THE 2008 CIVICUS WORLD ASSEMBLY

CIVICUS looks forward to your participation in the World Assembly. Let's Act Together for a Just World!!!



Register now for the CIVICUS World Assembly

The 8th CIVICUS World Assembly will take place from 18-21 June in Glasgow, Scotland. This year, the World Assembly will focus on the theme of *People, Power and Participation*, looking at how civil society accesses, engages with and participates in all forms and spheres of governance at the local, national and international levels. Register online now to participate! The World Assembly will bring together members of civil society, government, donors, business and media who will explore "Acting together for a just world" through the focus theme of "People, Participation and Power". For additional information on the programme and what to expect, browse through our e-flyer available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). To register, please [click here](#).

Youth summit at the CIVICUS Assembly in Glasgow

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TELL A FRIEND

Do you have a friend who works for a more just world? Would you like to share this newsletter with them? Please forward their e-mail address to subscriptions@civicus.org.

We value your comments, suggestions and contributions. Speak to us at editor@civicus.org

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You can make an on-line donation at www.civicus.org/new/donatev2.html

Join CIVICUS

Join or renew your CIVICUS Membership on-line now at www.civicus.org/new/joinv2.html



2008 CIVICUS World Assembly

The World Assembly will take place between 18-21 June 2008, Glasgow, Scotland. Building on and continuing the success of past World Assemblies, the overall theme for this event is *Acting Together for a Just World*. This overall theme will be explored through the focus theme of *People, Participation and Power*.



Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin

The CIVICUS e-newsletter Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin is an action-oriented newsletter distributed

Source: The Herald

Two hundred young activists from almost 100 different countries are expected to attend the CIVICUS Youth Assembly in Glasgow in June, for one of the world's major youth summits. The launch of the Youth Assembly was marked using a "human signpost" in front of the conference venue, the SECC in Glasgow, pointing at just a few of the countries young people will be travelling from. Scotland's youth will be represented by delegates including 20-year-old John Loughton, Chairman of the Scottish Youth Parliament, and the recent winner of Big Brother: Celebrity Hijack. This year the second annual Assembly will have an overall theme of "People, Participation and Power", and will focus on the importance of Youth Engagement in tackling issues such as poverty, climate change and HIV/AIDS. Rajiv Joshi, at 24 the youngest ever CIVICUS board member, said: "This is Scotland leading the way in bringing together some of the world's most influential young leaders and activists to empower them to do all they can to change the world for the better." For more information, [click here](#).

e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES

Alert: Frustration, anger...and hope in Zimbabwe

An interview with Xolani Zitha, Director of Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition

Almost a month after elections were held in Zimbabwe, the country remains in a state of flux and uncertainty. Amidst ongoing political violence, the ruling ZANU-PF party is demanding a run-off election with the leading opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). Anxious about more violence and vote-rigging, the MDC has so far refused to commit to a runoff. In this increasingly tense environment, civil society activists who worked to educate voters, as well as observed the elections, are now finding themselves harassed, intimidated and even behind bars. Xolani Zitha, the director of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition based in Harare, Zimbabwe tells the CIVICUS Civil Society Watch programme about their hopes for a solution. For more information, [click here](#).



Govern global arms trade

By Desmond Tutu, Anglican archbishop emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa, and winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize

Source: The Australian

In the present scandal of the attempt to ship tons of arms and ammunition to Zimbabwe, it is the Chinese who have spoken the most sense. China's foreign ministry said the country's shipment of mortar shells, rockets and bullets was perfectly normal trade. At the moment the UN is working on an arms trade treaty that could stop weapons transfers such as this one to Zimbabwe. If a strong treaty eventually becomes law, then an arms exporter will have to block the sale if there is evidence the weapons are likely to be used to commit serious violations of human rights law. If they went ahead with the sale, then civil society in the exporting country or other countries would be able to challenge this decision, as they would certainly have done in this case. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

Can Yunus create a poverty free world?

Gaziul Hasan Khan looks at the options in the Nobel laureate's new book

Nobel Peace laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, a pioneer of collateral free small credit to poor women, aims to harness free market power to solve the problems of poverty, hunger and inequality across the world. Grameen Bank, which he founded more than three decades ago to provide collateral free credit to the target group at their doorstep, has been replicated in all the continents to benefit over 100 million families. However, poverty, hunger and inequality continue to trouble the world as well as his native Bangladesh. If the dynamics of capitalism could be applied properly, he

to over 7,400 people around the world, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civilsocietywatch.org

CIVICUS blog

What do you think? Have your say on the CIVICUS Blog! CIVICUS seeks to amplify the voices and opinions of ordinary people and give expression to the enormous creative energy within civil society. Our recently launched blog gives you the opportunity to use your voice and engage with the rest of civil society. Have your say by visiting <http://civicus.civiblog.org>



believes, poverty, the greatest challenge facing mankind, could be tackled to a greater extent. For more information, [click here](#).

Is global warming to blame for Burma cyclone?

By Michael Casey, AP Environmental Writer

It was Asia's answer to Hurricane Katrina. Packing winds upwards of 120 mph, Cyclone Nargis became one of Asia's deadliest storms by hitting land at one of the lowest points in Myanmar and setting off a storm surge that reached 25 miles inland. "When we saw the (storm) track, I said, 'Uh oh, this is not going to be good,'" said Mark Lander, a meteorology professor at the University of Guam. "It would create a big storm surge. It was like Katrina going into New Orleans." Forecasters began tracking the cyclone April 28 as it first headed towards India. As projected, it took a sharp turn eastward, but didn't follow the typical cyclone track in that area leading to Bangladesh or Myanmar's mountainous northwest. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society engagement in the International Health Partnership

Source: International HIV/AIDS Alliance

The Alliance, through Action for Global Health is working hard to ensure strong civil society engagement in the International Health Partnership - an initiative launched by the World Health Organisation, the World Bank, and the UK's Department for International Development (among others) in September 2007 to better harmonise donor aid for health. Action for Global Health argues that countries see bigger health gains when governments work in partnership with civil society, faith-based organisations, and the private sector. This approach makes use of broader expertise, and promotes greater accountability and transparency in health spending. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society, poll watchdogs prepare for ARMM elections in Philippines

Source: MindaNews

Civil society groups and election watchdogs have laid out plans for improved monitoring of the 11th August polls in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, amid calls for postponement from other sectors. The groups, including the Citizens Coalition for ARMM Electoral Reforms (C-CARE), an accredited poll watchdog, held their Regional Co-ordinating Council meeting. The Council discussed some election-related issues, including their assessment of the past electoral exercises and the latest registration of voters. For more information, [click here](#).

Drugs policy: civil society can play a key role say MEPs

Source: European Parliament (press release), Justice and home affairs

In adopting a report on the Green Paper on the role of civil society in drugs policy in the European Union, the European Parliament indicates that civil society has an essential role to play in promoting the emergence, definition, implementation, assessment and monitoring of drug policies. With its experience gained at grass roots level, its innovative capacity and its potential in terms of the exchange of information and sound practices, civil society can bring significant added value to planned measures. However, in order to do so, civil society must be recognised and supported in both its internal and external dimensions. The report was adopted with 600 votes in favour, 35 against and 32 abstentions. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society can bring peace in India

Source: The Assam Tribune

Noted social activist and journalist of Meghalaya, Patricia Mukhim emphasised the need to strengthen civil society groups to usher in peace in parts of the conflict-ridden North-east India. Speaking at a function after receiving the fifth Upendra Nath Brahma Soldier of Humanity Award, Mukhim said that civil society groups could play a catalytic role in changing a climate of violence and misunderstanding. For that to happen, the groups, however, should have integrity and credibility that all the stakeholders, including the State and non-State agencies, could accept. Alluding to the post-apartheid scene in South Africa, she said that it was equally important that the parties involved avoid any revenge motive if they intend for such a peace to endure. For more information, [click here](#).

Social Movements: Media, activism and change

By Deborah Walter

Source: Southern African Non-Governmental Organisation Network (SANGONeT)

The media's role in supporting democracy and development has long been debated. Increasingly, this debate has extended to how activists use media to advance their own agendas. Objectivity is one of the core principles of journalism. Yet, everyone comes from a certain historical, ideological, and experiential background. Journalists, like anyone else, can be passionate about certain causes, and have opinions. On the other hand, activists who effectively use media can advance their own issues and causes to advocate for change. For more information, [click here](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY

Learning with constituents

Source: www.KeystoneAccountability.org

Significant and lasting social change comes about when the people most affected by a developmental intervention - its constituents - have a genuine voice and participation in the process. Dialogue with constituents in all its forms - formal or informal - helps generate the innovation and learning that are needed to solve the most pressing problems. Keystone's 'Learning with Constituents' guide offers practical advice on how to engage in mutually accountable relationships with their constituents and learn from and with them. For more information, [click here](#).

AA1000AS Wiki Revision Process: Second phase live

Source: AccountAbility, www.accountability21.net

The second draft of the AA1000AS was uploaded onto its wiki platform on 30th April and is now open for public participation until 13th June when the AccountAbility Standards Technical Committee will meet again to discuss the changes and suggestions to get the draft ready for the final stage. To participate in the revision process, [click here](#). Another collaborative process AccountAbility launched is the Accreditation Questionnaire which aims to determine whether there is wide support of the accreditation scheme embedded into AA1000AS. To share your opinion with AccountAbility by participating in the questionnaire, [click here](#).

GET INVOLVED!



Twenty years of Global Youth Service Day

By Christine Batcheler

Source: Youth Service America, USA

Millions of young people from Cambodia to Peru, from Pakistan to Liberia, from Mexico to Mongolia, are implementing community service projects during the 20th Annual Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). Young volunteers are addressing important community needs through service and service-learning projects on climate change, literacy, poverty and human rights. For more information, [click here](#).

Appeal: African civil society emergency summit on Zimbabwe

African civil society in Dar es Salaam on 21 April

At a meeting in Dar es Salaam on the 21 April, 105 representatives of civil society from 21 countries in Africa debated the crisis in Zimbabwe, and developed a Communiqué of the African Emergency Summit on Zimbabwe for presentation to the African Union for action. It emphasises that the state's campaign of violence against the people for exercising their democratic rights must be condemned at the highest level of the African Union. For more information, [click here](#).

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

GCAP calls for greater action on Zimbabwe

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Members of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) alliance throughout Africa have come out strongly against the lack of democracy and rampant abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe since the undeclared elections on March 29th. The alliance holds that African leaders need to raise their voices in condemnation of the shocking decline of democracy and mounting poverty levels in Zimbabwe and that the outside world must echo that pressure. GCAP Zimbabwe members are concerned about the actions of the ruling Zanu-PF. There have been consistent and highly disturbing accounts of political violence around the country, particularly in rural communities, against supporters of the opposition. A number of human rights campaigners have also been harassed and detained by the authorities solely because of their legitimate and peaceful work around the elections. For more information, [click here](#).

G8 action on child welfare: wishing for a hero

By World Vision International Policy & Advocacy

The annual G8 summit is attended by eight of the world's most powerful heads of government and represents an important opportunity to influence political direction on key global issues. World Vision sees the G8 summit as an opportunity to challenge the eight richest nations to change the lives of millions of children around the world, because 26,000 children below the age of five, die every day due to preventable poverty, disease and hunger. World Vision is calling for the leaders of G8 countries to clarify how and when they are going to meet their commitments and meet the MDGs. For more information, [click here](#).

To achieve the MDGs, partnering with the private sector is crucial

By Kathy Shandling

At a recent conference in London organised by the UN Development Programme and the United Kingdom, the President of the United Nations General Assembly (Srgjan Kerim) declared that closer partnerships with the private sector are critical in order to make more significant headway in the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. President Kerim emphasised the need for the business sector to explore new opportunities and develop new initiatives that could more effectively unleash the expertise, investment, and technological capabilities of the private sector in an effort to support growth in developing countries. Specifically, Srgjan Kerim stated that private sector companies should be encouraged to cultivate new markets in the developing world by providing goods and services for the poorest "bottom billion." For more information, [click here](#).

World Cities join forces to achieve Millennium Development Goals

By Robert Valencia

More than 1,000 delegates representing cities in 100 countries attended the sixth forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) in an effort to promote democracy and to achieve international development goals, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said. The event took place in Athens, Greece, from 26 to 28 March. WACAP's goal is to boost the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aims to slash extreme poverty and to reduce the impact of other global problems by 2015. Through WACAP, cities from all continents are contributing to the fulfilment of the objectives and targets of the International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), proclaimed by the General Assembly in December 1995. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

Civil society reject Asian Development Bank's strategy 2020 framework

Source: Water for the People Network

Civil society from Asia urged their leaders attending the 41st Governors' Meeting to reject the pro-privatisation and anti-poor Strategy 2020, the new long-term strategic framework of the Asian Development Bank which was part of the agenda of the meetings in Madrid, Spain, from May 3-6. Contrary to its corporate vision of "An Asia and Pacific Free of Poverty", the Strategy 2020, which replaces the long-term strategic framework 2000-2015, aims to create a business-friendly environment and increase public-private partnerships to at least 30% of total activities by 2020. The strategy also aims to scale up private sector development and private sector operations to 50% by 2020 in core areas such as environment, finance sector development, regional co-operation and integration, education, and infrastructure (including water, sanitation and waste management). For more information, [click here](#).

The World's most dangerous food crises

Source: Foreign Policy, www.foreignpolicy.com

Soaring energy prices, growing demand from India and China, the rise of biofuels, and increasingly unpredictable weather have spawned a global food crisis that stretches from Port-au-Prince to Pyongyang. This week, FP looks at the next places likely to be rocked by shortages, riots, poverty, and hunger. In 2007, catastrophic flooding wiped out anywhere from 10 to 25 per cent of North Korea's staple corn and rice crops. Earlier this month, the regime announced it was suspending the food ration system in its capital for six months, a sign that leader Kim Jong Il's administration is bracing itself for another crisis. For more information, [click here](#).

Junta aid blocks could multiply cyclone toll

By Marwaan Macan-Markar

Source: Inter Press Service (IPS)

Burma's military regime may soon face charges of allowing tens of thousands of its own people to die through incompetence and bureaucratic red-tape placed in the way of international relief efforts for over one million cyclone victims in the country. A week after Cyclone Nargis struck the Irrawaddy delta in south-western Burma, killing close to 100,000 people and uprooting nearly 1.5 million people from their homes, the junta has only approved a trickle of emergency aid. Absent from such assistance are teams specialised in helping to supply drinking water by cleaning and restoring the water sources in the damaged terrain. "We are concerned that the people in the affected areas are not getting the quantity and quality of clean water they need," says Rick Bauer, public health engineering adviser at the British development agency Oxfam. "We have to assume that the people are drinking contaminated water." For more information, [click here](#).

Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples

Source: United Nations Human Rights

While climate change affects everyone, it will probably hit the most vulnerable groups hardest. Indigenous peoples, according to the UN Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples Issues, are among the first to face direct adverse consequences of climate change, partly owing to their close relationship with the environment and its resources. The Permanent Forum, which ran from 21 April to 2 May, brought together more than 1,000 indigenous representatives, senior UN officials, and representatives of governments, civil society and academia to address the theme: Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods, the stewardship role of indigenous peoples, and new challenges. Emerging evidence suggests that the livelihoods and cultural identities of the more than 370 million indigenous peoples of North America, Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific are already under threat. For more information, [click here](#).

PROFILES

The Ploughshares Fund is a public grant-making foundation that supports initiatives to prevent the spread and use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and other weapons of war, and to prevent conflicts that could lead to the use of weapons of mass destruction. In the twenty-five years since the Ploughshares Fund was founded, they have made grants totaling more than \$50 million to become the largest grant-making foundation in the U.S. focusing exclusively on peace and security issues. As a so-called "venture funder" they specialise in giving start-up funding to promising new endeavours, and then helping to leverage more substantial support from other sources. Unlike most foundations, the Ploughshares Fund will fund individuals as well as organisations. For additional information, [click here](#).

MEMBER: Disha Social Organisation

Disha Social Organisation was founded in 1984 in the Sultanpur-Chilkana area of Saharanpur district in Uttar Pradesh, India because of the need for an organisation committed to holistic development of the people. Initial work included creation and strengthening of bonds within the community through activities in health and education sectors. Emphasis at that point was on mobilising people, especially women belonging to *Dalit*, minorities sections for social change. Disha's commitment is to bring about socio-economic empowerment of the poor and marginalised with a focus on women. Disha's gamut of activities includes women empowerment and legal aid to women in difficult circumstances through a women's cell, advocacy for gender equity, education for adolescent girls from minority communities, health and social awareness through media communication and development. For more information, [click here](#).

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Gender Equity Index 2008

Source: Social Watch

More than half the women in the world live in countries that have made no progress in gender equity in recent years. This is the main conclusion of the Social Watch 'Gender Equity Index' (GEI) 2008, which shows recent evolution and trends in bridging the gap between men and women in education, the economy and empowerment. The GEI 2008 illustrates that the greater equity levels to be found in education are not paralleled by acceptable levels in the economic field nor in the empowerment of women. Political empowerment is the area where most progress has been made in recent years as a result of active policies, yet economic equity shows disparate results, with as many countries regressing as making progress. For more information, [click here](#).

The Business Guide for Partnering with NGOs and the United Nations

Source: Greenleaf Publishing, www.greenleaf-publishing.com

The Guide provides a comprehensive and accessible market-based assessment of leading non-profit social actors and agencies of the United Nations that have demonstrated competency in partnering with companies in a number of areas such as advocacy, awareness-raising, health and the environment, among others. It is based on the belief that, if companies are aware of the success of other businesses in engaging in partnerships, they themselves will be more inclined to seriously consider the prospects of partnering. The Guide is an indispensable resource for all companies and civil society organisations looking for guidance on how to identify suitable partners, as well as for researchers and academics working in new areas. For more information, [click here](#).



A Freedom from Our Social Prisons

The Rise of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

By Anthony George Ravlich

In his noteworthy new book, Anthony Ravlich reminds us of the critical need for comprehensive human rights education in order for the poor and disadvantaged to hold states accountable to fulfill their minimum core obligations under economic and social human rights law. Ravlich accurately points to the devastating impact of structural violence and neo-liberal

economic policies on the lives of millions who now live in squalor and poverty. He effectively argues that economic globalisation proceeded prematurely as it did not include simultaneous economic and social rights protection. Ravlich eloquently calls on states to stop "fudging" on their core minimum obligations and respect the economic rights of the poor. For more information, [click here](#).

Viewpoints: Negotiating Disarmament

Reflections on guns, fighters, and armed violence in peace processes

Source: Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue is pleased to announce the publication of the edited collection, "Viewpoints - Reflections on Guns, Fighters, and Armed Violence in Peace Processes", the first of a two-part series bringing together first-hand accounts and careful observations from individuals with diverse connections to, and experiences of, peace processes. *Viewpoints* provides space for their views on how weapons control, violence reduction, and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration fare in peace negotiations and processes. For more information, [click here](#).

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Register for the Ghana CSO Parallel Forum on Aid Effectiveness

2-4 September 2008, Accra, Ghana

Participants for the CSO Parallel Forum must first complete the Pre-Registration Form and submit it to the Ghana Aid Effectiveness Forum secretariat on or before 15 June. In addition to the Pre-Registration Form, CSOs requesting a subsidy and/or accreditation to attend the CSO Parallel Forum and the High Level Forum III must also submit relevant forms to the appropriate bodies on or before 15 June. The Ghana secretariat will receive all pre-registration, subsidy and accreditation forms and forward these to the appropriate bodies for processing and approval. The registration forms will contain more information regarding fees, methods of payment, accommodation and other logistical arrangements. To obtain registration form, [click here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Child Rights Award 2008

Application Deadline 30 June 2008

This award is for Asia-Pacific broadcasters and producers who have televised programmes both for children and about children that cover any child rights issue. Entries can include documentaries that detail the plight of children, dramas that help break down stereotypes and discrimination, or animation that teaches and entertains. Entries must have been broadcast between June 2007 and May 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS & NOMINATIONS

Call for Proposals of Case Studies - Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms: Learning from experience

Source: Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

Application Deadline: 13 June 2008

As part of its initiative on "Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms" AWID is gathering insights into the contemporary workings of religious fundamentalist movements and previously undocumented strategies employed by women's rights activists to successfully challenge them. We intend to share the selected case studies with AWID members and other women's rights activists and

advocates around the world. This is a call to acknowledge the diversity and wealth of information within women's organisations and movements and to share experience and knowledge of the actions and strategies at their disposal. For more information, [click here](#).

Call for Proposals: Focus on Implementing Laws and Supporting Innovation

Source: United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

Application Deadline: 26 May 2008

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, managed by UNIFEM on behalf of the UN system, issued its 2008 global annual call for proposals to support national and local initiatives working to end violence against women in the developing world and countries in transition on 28 April 2008. The Trust Fund, established in 1996 by the UN General Assembly, is an essential source of funding to promote strategies and solutions that make women safer, strengthen courts and law enforcement, and enhance services for women. The UN Trust Fund, which awards annual grants based on an open and competitive process, relies on generous support from governments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and individuals. For more information, [click here](#).

APPOINTMENTS

This week 27 new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#).

JOBS OF THE WEEK

Consultant

Impact Planning and Learning Framework Development

Application Deadline: 4 June 2008

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For more information, [click here](#).

New Media Projects Manager

Application Deadline: 27 May 2008

CAFOD

Location: London, UK

For more information, [click here](#).

Volunteer Researchers

Application Deadline: 30 May 2008

The Ontario Women's Justice Network (OWJN)

Location: Toronto, Canada

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