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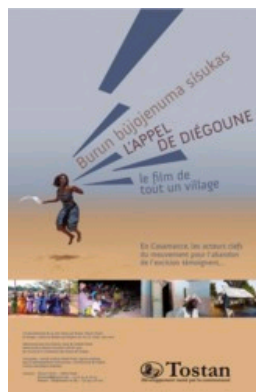
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17 November 2009

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

I'm very excited to announce that *Walking the Path of Unity* - a documentary film made by the village of Diégoune, a Tostan partner community, in collaboration with Tostan and the Belgium NGO Respect - has been selected as one of three films to launch the UNICEF '[International Children's Rights Documentary Film Festival](#)' at the UNICEF Headquarters in New York today. The film will also be screened in locations worldwide including Canada, Croatia, Guinea, India, Maldives, and South Korea.



In early 2008, after participating in the Tostan [Community Empowerment Program](#), the community of Diégoune publicly declared their decision to abandon female genital cutting (FGC).

Walking the Path of Unity is part of the community's inspirational efforts to share the news of their decision, and the reasons behind it, with other Diola communities in neighboring villages, in Senegal and throughout diaspora communities worldwide.

From their local rice fields, to the central village square of Diégoune, to the local mosque, men and women explain with pride the reasons and events that led to the community's decision to abandon a traditional practice that they came to understand was threatening the well-being of their children. Since the completion of the film in May 2009, Diégoune community members (with the support of NGOs [Cinema Numérique Ambulant](#), and Tostan) have projected the film in over 70 villages in their region.

I encourage you to watch the film (in four parts) on our Youtube channel, [Tostan International](#), or by clicking on the image below.



It isn't a film featuring outsiders who share their opinions on a distant practice or culture. Instead, it's a film that is enabling a community to share with the world their story and their vision for the future. I am convinced this is a new paradigm for how multi-media can support real, grassroots change led by communities **themselves**.

- To watch *Walking the Path of Unity* with English subtitles on YouTube, click [here](#).
- To read more about the Diégoune Film Project on Tostan.org, click [here](#).
- To read our press release on the UNICEF film festival, click [here](#).

The UNICEF International Children's Rights Documentary film festival is part of a month of celebrations which mark the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. More information, including a schedule of screenings worldwide, is available [online](#).

Congratulations to the community of Diégoune, the Tostan staff and volunteers who supported this project, and to our partners at Respect, Belgium!

Sincerely,



Molly Melching Executive Director, Tostan

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

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Text Content:

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