



November 2011

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

Making their way across the Upper River Region landscape, Gambian youth encouraged communities and leaders to “practice what [they] know” during a five-day youth caravan late last month. Over 170 youth participants from 73 Tostan communities travelled from village to village to raise awareness about topics important to them: staying in school, keeping away from drugs and alcohol, and avoiding teen pregnancy, among others.



Participants march to the URR governor's residence

on the final day of the Tostan Youth Caravan

Along their journey, these young people asked for support from communities, local religious leaders, and government officials in addressing the unmet rights that affect the lives of the country's youth.

As local radio stations and newspapers continue to broadcast the story of the youth caravan, the impact of this new generation of emerging leaders will continue to inspire change.

[To read Part I of this two-segment blog piece, click here.](#) Also, keep a look out for Part II coming soon on [our blog](#).

Thank you for your continued support and please scroll down for more news from Tostan's international offices.

Warm wishes,

Gannon Gillespie
Director of Strategic Development

Double your impact in African communities

Molly Melching and Gerry Mackie lead human rights discussion on Wisconsin Public Radio

We are pleased to



announce that as part of Tostan's 20th Anniversary Celebration a generous Tostan supporter has pledged to match all donations received during our [year-end fundraising campaign](#). Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to support Tostan and double your impact in communities in West and East Africa.

When you make your donation, you can also choose one of our [beautiful greeting cards](#) to send with a personal message to someone special. They make beautiful and unique holiday gifts!

Former Tostan volunteer shares experiences with Stirring the Fire

Former Tostan volunteer Sydney Skov was recently interviewed by [Stirring the Fire](#), an organization that connects individuals with international organizations working to promote gender equality worldwide. In the video, Sydney shares stories and insights from her year as the Communications Assistant in Dakar, Senegal.



[Click here to watch Sydney's interview and to learn about the Tostan Volunteer Program.](#)



On November 3, Tostan Executive Director Molly Melching and long-time partner and UC San Diego Professor Gerry Mackie were guests on Wisconsin Public Radio's [Here on Earth](#) program.

During the hour-long program entitled "Confronting Female Genital Cutting," Molly and Gerry discussed how facilitating community-wide dialog about human rights has led thousands of community's to collectively abandon [female genital cutting](#) (FGC).

[Click here to listen to Molly and Gerry's interview and to learn more about community-led social change.](#)

Give a gift to African communities for free

Doing your holiday shopping online? For a quick, free way to give, [click on the Amazon.com link on our website](#) and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to Tostan at no extra cost to you.

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

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