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Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

October 2009



I am pleased to announce that the first **'Solar Power!'** **project participants have returned** to their home villages in Senegal and Djibouti. Having spent six months in Tilonia, India, **Mariama Bamba** and her six fellow Senegalese participants came back equipped with the skills necessary to install, maintain, and repair solar panels for more than 50 households in each of their communities. They will now begin the work they were trained to do: providing light and power to

hundreds of people in the coming months.

[Click here to read the story of Mariama Bamba's return.](#)

[Click here to read more about the Tostan Solar Power! project.](#)

Thank you for your continued interest in our work!

Sincerely,



Molly Melching

Executive Director, Tostan

P. S. Take a look at more important Tostan updates below.

Barefoot College and the "Solar Sisters" are finalists in the BBC World Challenge 2009



Barefoot College, Tostan's partner in bringing solar power to African communities, is a finalist in the BBC World Challenge 2009 for its innovative approach to women's empowerment. The Challenge recognizes innovation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. See the video [here](#) and [vote](#) today!

Abandonment of female genital cutting (FGC)

Tostan and our partner communities had a landmark summer for the abandonment of FGC, with the first ever declarations in Somalia, The Gambia, and 244 participating and "adopted" communities in Senegal gathering to celebrate their abandonment. To read more, click [here](#).



Tostan Featured in full chapter of New York Times bestseller Half the Sky

[Half the Sky: Turning](#)



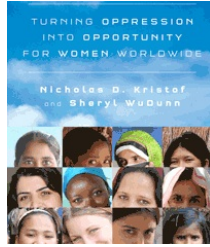
New ways to get involved

Get Involved

We have new options for getting involved with

Oppression into Opportunity
for Women Worldwide by

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl
WuDunn is already on the
New York Times best seller



list. [Join the movement](#) or [buy your copy](#) today!

Tostan featured on our website. From free ways to donate, to following us online, starting your own fundraiser or shopping for Tostan gear, there is an option for everyone. Or you can always support us the old-fashioned way, and 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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