

# Tostan

## a Grassroots Movement

Tostan, a US501(c)(3) with headquarters in Dakar, Senegal and an international office in Washington, DC, is a rapidly expanding nongovernmental organization dedicated to community-led development in Africa.

Tostan's mission is to empower African communities to bring about sustainable development and positive social transformation based on respect for human rights through the involvement of the most important stakeholders: the African communities themselves.

Since 1991, Tostan has brought its holistic 30-month Community Empowerment Program (CEP) to over 3,000 communities in ten African countries. As a result, over 5,500 communities have abandoned female genital cutting (FGC) as of May 2011 and many more will join them in the years to come. Of the aforementioned communities, over 90% have also abandoned child/forced marriage after completing the CEP or exchanging knowledge with communities that participated to the program.



## Fast Facts about Tostan

- Tostan means “breakthrough” in Wolof, the most widely-spoken national language in Senegal.
- The World Health Organization, UNICEF, Population Council, and many others recommend Tostan’s program as a “best practice” for helping communities abandon harmful traditional practices (e.g. female genital cutting, child/forced marriage).
- Tostan employs over 200 full-time staff and on average works with more than 900 Africa volunteer facilitators. **Over 99% of Tostan’s staff is African.**
- Tostan has implemented its program in more than **3000 villages** in Burkina Faso, Djibouti, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia, and Sudan.
- Recognition for Tostan’s program and staff includes the **Anna Lindh Award for Human Rights** (2005), the **UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize** (2007), the **Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize** (2007), and the **Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship** (2010).



**Tostan**  
Community-led Development

US Office

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To learn more about Tostan, please visit  
[www.tostan.org](http://www.tostan.org) or email us at [info@tostan.org](mailto:info@tostan.org)

# the Tostan

## Washington DC Internship Program



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Community-led Development

## Get Involved!

Over the years, Tostan has greatly benefited from the efforts of interns. These motivated individuals have worked alongside employees to build Tostan's capacity to work more effectively in the communities we serve, whilst also working with donors and partners and reaching out to new form partnerships and contacts from our DC headquarters. The positions open to interns include:

- Communications Assistant
- Communications Assistant for Strategic Projects
- Community Engagement Assistant
- Development Assistant
- Grants Assistant
- Operations and Internship Program Assistant

Whilst each intern has their own series of set responsibilities, interns are also expected to actively, meaningfully, and creatively engage in a vast series of tasks depending on the daily needs of the office. Interns should expect to prove themselves with administrative, communication, networking, fundraising, web designing and maintenance tasks and more. To find out which of the aforementioned positions are currently available, please visit the "Professional Opportunities" page.



## Why Intern at Tostan?

Past interns have found their experience at the Tostan US office extremely helpful in building the necessary experience to work in the international sector. Their experience in DC helped them gain an overall understanding of how a successful and world renowned NGO works. Some even went on to continue their journey with Tostan by applying to our Africa Volunteer Program.

*"Being an intern at Tostan taught me more than a development lecture ever could. Everyday I saw the dedication of the staff and volunteers, and from the first day I felt as if I were a part of their team.... Tostan let me be a part of [the] process, answering my questions and guiding me along the way."*

– Megan Phillips,  
Intern, Spring–Summer '08

*"My summer internship at Tostan gave me the necessary experience and skills to succeed in the fast paced field of international development... I gained exposure and became a part of Tostan's fundamental commitment to human rights in hundreds of communities [by working] closely with other staff members on a daily basis."*

–Michelle Muita,  
Volunteer/Internship Program Assistant, '09

## Commitment

Interns commit to work with the DC team for a minimum of ten weeks (part-time for a minimum of 15 hours/week, or full-time). Past interns have found longer commitments to help them become fully productive and more independent members of our team while providing a certain level of continuity for the projects with which they are involved. A longer commitment also allows our interns to participate in some of the many events that are regularly held in Washington, DC. These events are great learning experiences and networking opportunities. If you intend to intern for credit, please mention it in your statement of purpose. Details related to internships for credit must be discussed during the interview.

## How to Apply

Please visit our DC Internship web page (<http://is.gd/4Wzin>) to learn how to apply. You will find our Washington, DC Internship Program Application Form and a list of other required documents. Questions?

Please contact  
[internshipsdc@tostan.org](mailto:internshipsdc@tostan.org).

