

MOLLY MELCHING



Molly Melching has lived and worked in Senegal since 1974 and founded the international NGO, Tostan, in 1991.

Tostan, meaning “breakthrough” in Wolof, implements a holistic, three-year empowering education program in African national languages that has engaged over 3,500 rural communities in eight African countries on themes of democracy, human rights, health, literacy, and project management skills. The program has led to over 20,000 rural women holding leadership posts and over 8,800 communities in eight African countries publicly declaring their commitment to abandon harmful traditional practices.

Molly and Tostan have received international recognition for their successful work in the areas of human rights education, women's health, literacy, social entrepreneurship and social norm change including:

- The Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights,
- The Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Prize,
- The Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship,
- Sweden’s Anna Lindh Human Rights Prize and
- UNESCO’s King Sejong Literacy Prize.

A New York Times best-selling book by Aimee Molloy, *However Long the Night*, vividly relates Molly and Tostan's story. They are also featured in Melinda Gates's book, *Moment of Lift* and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton’s: *The Book of Gutsy Women*.