



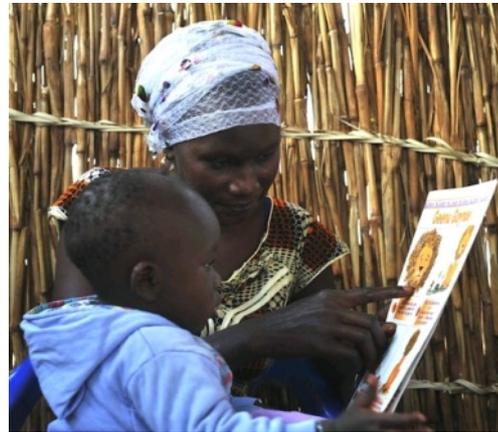
March 2013

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

I am very excited to share with you that we launched our [Reinforcement of Parental Practices \(RPP\) Module](#) this month!

This new module works to strengthen knowledge gained in the [Community Empowerment Program \(CEP\)](#) that encourages parents and other community members to create an environment for children's development. The module will help improve children's early development and learning, allowing them to perform better and stay in school.

In 2012, we implemented a pilot of the RPP module in 32 Senegalese communities. The results were encouraging, and the module is now being expanded to 200 Wolof, Pulaar, and Mandinka communities in Senegal. This year, we will work with 4,000 families and with the Senegal school system, directly involving 690 school teachers and school directors.



Through the Reinforcement of Parental Practices Module, children's early development and learning will be improved.

At the launch of the new module I attended in Dakar on March 20, Project Coordinator Ibrahima Giroux said: "The Reinforcement of Parental Practices Module will seek to integrate new research with traditional parenting practices to improve the overall quality of parent-child interaction and child development." [Read more about the launch event on our website.](#)

We are very proud of this initiative, which has come as a result of years of work by the program team and our partner communities, and is being supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

We look forward to helping more parents and communities develop the skills necessary to prepare their children for learning and future success!

Warm wishes,

Molly Melching

Executive Director

Celebrating International Women's Day

Women across Senegal came together on International Women's Day, March 8, to work towards ending gender-based violence. [Yama Bathia](#) [inspired her](#)

[community](#) to protect human rights through healthy conflict resolution, and [Tostan Prison Project](#) participants celebrated human rights for all at [Rufisque Women's Prison](#). Women and men also gathered in Guédiawaye at [a joint event with our partner UN Women](#) to honor the progress being made to empower women.



UK Minister visits Tostan partner community in Senegal

UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Lynne Featherstone visited Tostan and the community of Keur Simbara in Senegal on March 21 to learn about the [Community Empowerment Program \(CEP\)](#) and how it contributes to the [abandonment of female genital cutting \(FGC\)](#).

[Read the Minister's blog piece in Huffington Post about her visit.](#)



View photos from the event at [Rufisque Women's Prison](#) and the [UN Women event](#) on Flickr.

Community Management Committees in Guinea develop the local economy

[Community Management Committees](#) (CMC) in the N'Zérékoré zone in Guinea gathered together to share the projects they are leading to ensure economic development in their communities. In this area, several of the CMCs partner with coffee bean producers [using community grants to support agricultural production in the region and develop the local economy](#).



[Learn more about the projects they are leading.](#)

Also, read [Molly Melching's article in The Daily Beast](#) about the UK Government's £35m investment to end FGC in a generation.

Dates announced for Molly Melching's appearances in the US for *However Long the Night*

The first dates have been announced for Molly Melching's public appearances in the US to accompany the release of [However Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph](#). The book by [acclaimed author Aimee Molloy](#) brings to life Molly's story of founding Tostan and the incredible community-led movement for social change in Africa.



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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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