



November 2012

Dear Tostan Friends and Supporters,

For the past three years, the youth of The Gambia have organized and led [an annual caravan to raise awareness of human rights](#). This past November, they did it again. 250 Tostan youth participants traveled to six communities in the Upper River Region (URR) of The Gambia during a week-long caravan to share their knowledge about children's rights and to reinforce positive traditions. [You can see some of the photos from this inspirational journey here.](#)

Each year, the slogan of the Youth Caravan is *kalong ka baara*, which means 'practice what you know' in the West African language of Mandinka. I feel this theme really represents what we at Tostan believe - that applying and sharing knowledge of human rights can benefit entire communities.

On the final day of the caravan, the youth participants held a ceremony to present a manifesto declaring their human rights to the Chief of the Wuli West district, Alhagie Kemo Jatta. They also gave a speech on the importance of protecting children against abuse and performed a skit on the health consequences of [female genital cutting](#) (FGC).



The 4th Annual Youth Caravan

Using their knowledge from Tostan's classes, the Gambian youth continue to educate families, communities, local and civil society organizations, and government representatives on children's rights. They inspire all of us at Tostan to re-double our efforts to bring our [Community Empowerment Program](#) to more communities in 2013.

[Learn more about the 4th Annual Youth Caravan on allafrika.com](#) and [on our website](#).

Warm wishes,

Molly Melching

Executive Director

Sharing strategies with our partners to end child/forced marriage

Khalidou Sy, the National Coordinator of Tostan Senegal, participated in a global meeting on November 6th and 7th organized by our partner, [Girls Not Brides](#). The two-day meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa brought together hundreds of social leaders to share their strategies for promoting the [abandonment of child/forced](#)



Coumba Samba Camara brings human rights education to her community

After hearing a Tostan radio broadcast on topics including democracy, problem-solving, and project management, Coumba Samba Camara encouraged her community to begin Tostan's [CEP](#). As a member of the [CMC](#), treasurer of the women's dairy collective, and president of the local women's group, Coumba



[marriage.](#)

[Learn more about Tostan's participation in the Girls Not Brides global meeting.](#)

Tostan participates in launching of guide to support peace-building initiatives

Tostan participated in the launch of a new guide created by the [West African Network for Peacebuilding \(WANEP\)](#) at a recent meeting in Ghana. This resource mirrors the objectives of Tostan's [Peace and Security Project](#) to help governments and organizations support peace-building initiatives and, specifically, emphasize the importance of women in peace-building.



[Learn more about our participation in the WANEP meeting.](#)

empowers her own community of Vélingara in Senegal to raise awareness of human rights issues.

[Learn more about Coumba and her role in her community.](#)

Landmark U.N. resolution on FGC approved by Third Committee

On Monday, November 26, [U.N. General Assembly's Third Committee](#) approved a resolution that calls for the global ban of [female genital cutting \(FGC\)](#).



The resolution, which will almost certainly be approved by the U.N. General Assembly in December, places inclusive education programs as a top solution to ending the practice. [Read the Huffington Post article on the U.N. resolution and accompanying video featuring Tostan.](#)

Our partner, [Orchid Project](#), has been closely following the development of this resolution. [Read more on their website.](#)

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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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