



Hello Youth Advocates from Women Deliver:

As part of the Deliver for Youth (D4Y) project, this monthly bulletin highlights resources and advocacy opportunities relevant to maternal health and young people, especially linking maternal health services and information to SRHR, including HIV/AIDS, programming and policy. As part of the Women Deliver initiative, we will be looking at these issues in the context of poverty eradication, sustainable development, and the march toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG5, improve maternal health.

We will continue to up-date you on the D4Y activities, and we hope that you will contribute by writing to us about the events and news in your community. Your knowledge and opinions and what inspires you will make this a valuable resource for young advocates striving for better integration of the youth voice within maternal health. Send us your words and insight on maternal health news.

We want to hear what you are doing to promote maternal health – tell us about the events you are attending, the state of sexual and reproductive health and rights in your community, and the perceptions of SRHR and maternal health among your friends, your classmates, your coworkers, your families. Write me at [nsorkin@familycareintl.org](mailto:nsorkin@familycareintl.org). For your news to be included on the next bulletin, please send me any information before **Friday April 4, 2008**.

That's also the deadline for new recruits to join the list serve in time for the next round of up-dates so be sure to share this message with your friends and colleagues who are interested in advocating for maternal health. We're more than 100 strong now!

This bulletin is divided into three sections:

**Applause:** *D4Y highlights*

**Calls:** *Conferences, events, and other opportunities to advocate, participate, and connect*

**In the Know:** *News and resources, including reports, toolkits, and books.*

## **I. APPLAUSE**

*D4Y Superstars and Successes*

### **Andrew Francis Awarded Jamaica's the Prime Minister's National Award for Excellence in the Field of Leadership**

Since he took to the Women Deliver stage in that pink oxford shirt, we have all been big fans of **Andrew Francis** in Jamaica. Alongside such long time maternal health

champions as FIGO's Dorothy Shaw and the Lancet's Richard Horton, Andrew added an eloquent discussion of young people and steps forward in the SRHR and maternal health movements.

In December, Andrew was awarded the Prime Minister's National Award for Excellence in the field of leadership, the highest recognition to be bestowed to a Jamaican between the ages of 15-24 years. The selection committee stated that they were impressed with his tireless efforts to represent SRHR issues affecting Jamaican youth within high-level meetings such as Women Deliver. Andrew continues to work with the Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN) which spearheads advocacy campaigns for comprehensive sexual education and access to condoms.

To learn more about Andrew, read his interview with *Go-Local Jamaica*:

<http://www.golocaljamaica.com/readarticle.php?ArticleID=9917>

To watch him in action at WD, see the Saturday Morning Plenary – The Future is Now

<http://www.womendeliver.public-i.tv/site/listing.php>

### **Young Advocates at Commission on the Status of Women**

At the 52<sup>nd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women meeting, held at UN headquarters at the end of February, young advocates from Youth Coalition, IPPF, CHOICE in the Netherlands, International Women's Health Coalition, and many others worked to influence and monitor this year's deliberations on financing for gender equality and women's empowerment. Although only a handful of the boldest government allies championed our proposed language supporting sexual and reproductive rights and youth participation, we did not lose ground. The final outcome documents acknowledge the Beijing and Cairo agreements on women's empowerment and recommend governments invest in universal access to comprehensive reproductive health services. New ground was also gained in the resolution on HIV/AIDS, including new paragraphs on older women and women with disabilities.

At a headline event opening the two-week meeting, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon launched a new campaign on violence against women, and Youth Coalition's **Prateek Suman Awasthi**, who worked with the India-based Men against Violence and Abuse organization, spoke on behalf of the UNFPA youth advisory. He pointed out that violence against women was a structural issue, in that it was often a tool used to keep women subjugated in society. Promoting a rights-based approach, Prateek explained that change starts with young people, and it is important to engage them.

Visit the Women Deliver website for an overview of the Commission on the Status of Women advocacy outcomes: [www.womendeliver.org](http://www.womendeliver.org).

Check out the Statesman in India on the Violence Against Women campaign:

<http://www.thestatesman.net/page.arcview.php?clid=4&id=220405&usrss=1>

## **II. CALLS**

*Conferences, Events, and Other Opportunities*

### **Astra Youth Affiliates Recruiting**

Are you a young person advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights in Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans?

Astra Youth, a group of young advocates affiliated with the Astra Network, has opened a new round of recruitment. In the region, sexuality is still a taboo, and the lack of access to reliable information for young people contributes to a higher risk of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. Astra Youth advocates for sexual and reproductive health and rights of youth, mainly for access to information on sexuality and family planning as well as access to services. For more information, see [www.astrayouth.org.pl](http://www.astrayouth.org.pl).

Comment [OU1]: Please check!

### **Future Programme Managers: Take a course in Monitoring and Evaluation of Maternal and Neonatal Health Programmes!**

The new course is for present or future programme managers who are working at national or regional level for the Ministry of Health or in an international organisation (UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF or an NGO). The course aims to train programme managers in the theory and practice of monitoring and evaluation of maternal health programmes in order to enable them to design, implement and disseminate these activities. This course has been developed in association with Ipact, the University of Aberdeen, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp.

The next course will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, 30 June - 16th July, 2008. This course will be repeated in Morocco 13-29 October, 2008 and delivered in French.

For further details about the course the relevant documents are available for downloading from our website to access click on the link [www.ipact-int.com](http://www.ipact-int.com)

#### *Conferences*

#### **Breakthrough, Washington, DC, April 2008**

In Washington, D.C., the *Breakthrough: The Women, Faith and Development Summit to End Global Poverty on April 13-14* will serve as a forum for international leaders from faith communities, governments, donors and NGOs to convene and announce new commitments to engender global poverty alleviation efforts. The organizers have declared it the U.S.-based continuation of the Women Deliver initiative and FCI is planning on the maternal health program within the agenda. There are also numerous youth advocacy opportunities so please tell us if you will be attending! Admission is FREE – register here: <http://www.wfd-alliance.org/INattend.htm>

#### **YouthForce, International AIDS Conference, Mexico, August 2008**

Talk to your organization about participating in the 'Take Two to Mexico' Youth Sponsorship campaign to get young people to the XVII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008) from August 3rd – 8th, 2008 in Mexico City. The campaign strives to send one young person for every adult participant to the monumental conference that will bring together over 20,000 researchers, decision-makers, and advocates from around the world to collaborate and share in an effort to strengthen our global responses to HIV and AIDS. Please contact [joya@youthaidscoalition.org](mailto:joya@youthaidscoalition.org) if you or your organization is interested.

*Calls for Papers*

**Submit your abstracts for the Association for Research on Mothering (ARM) 12th Annual Conference:**

Mothering, Violence, Militarism, War, and Social Justice

October 24-26, 2008

York University, Toronto, Canada

For details see: <http://www.yorku.ca/arm/armmembership.html>

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS – March 21, 2008

Send your 250-word presentation abstract and 50-word bio to [arm@yorku.ca](mailto:arm@yorku.ca)

**Second Conference of the Kartini Network:**

The Future of Asian Feminisms: Confronting Fundamentalisms, Conflict and Neoliberalism.

November 2-5, 2008 Bali, Indonesia

Following the successful First Kartini Conference in Dalian, China, in 2004 this second Kartini conference will discuss the future of Asian feminisms assessing past experiences and charting new paths. For conference and submission details, go to [www.kartini-asia.org](http://www.kartini-asia.org). Submission deadline July 1, 2008.

**The World Information Transfer 17th International Conference on Health and Environment: Global Partners for Global Solutions.**

The Conference will be held on April 23rd and 24th, 2008, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on the themes: CHORNOBYL UPDATE and YOUTH ACTION. This year's Conference is co-sponsored by the Government of Ukraine, and in collaboration with UNDP, WHO, NGLS and Stakeholder Forum.

The Conference is FREE, however, pre-registration is mandatory by April 12, 2008. There will be no assistance with visa requests.

**The Global Forum for Health Research and The Lancet are holding their third joint essay competition for the under-30s on the theme: Climate change and health: research challenges for the health of vulnerable populations**

A selection of short-listed essays will be published in an anthology as well as on the Global Forum and *Lancet* websites. Winners will be invited to take part (with all expenses paid) in the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health, which will take place in Bamako, Mali, from 17 to 19 November 2008. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2008. Read here for more information:

[http://www.globalforumhealth.org/Site/005\\_Get%20involved/009\\_Essay%20Competition/005\\_Essay%20competition.php](http://www.globalforumhealth.org/Site/005_Get%20involved/009_Essay%20Competition/005_Essay%20competition.php)

**G8 Civil Society Meeting in Japan needs more MDG 5 advocates!**

The Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) is looking for more people to advocate on the issues surrounding MDG 5 at the “Civil G8” -

a 2-day meeting of civil society organizations held before the G8 Summit this summer. The Civil G8 will be held at the end of April in Tokyo and JOICFP needs 3-5 people to participate in a committee to talk on the MDG 5. If you work for an NGO and can definitely attend at the end of April, please contact Sumie Ishii, Executive Director at [sishii@joicfp.or.jp](mailto:sishii@joicfp.or.jp) with the following information: experience advocating on MDG 5 issues, date of birth, passport number, issuing date of passport, expiration date of passport.

### **III. IN THE KNOW**

#### *News and Resources*

#### **Family Care International wins UNFPA Population Award!**

On March 5th, the United Nations announced that FCI is the 2008 winner of the UN Population Award in the Institutional Category. This award honors an organization “for their outstanding work in population and in improving the health and welfare of individuals.” Read more here: <http://www.familycareintl.org/en/home>

#### **Amnesty International Research Women of Color and Maternal Mortality in the US**

Do you know of any women of color that have died within their first year after having a baby, experienced a near-miss or suffered some type of morbidity related to birth in the United States? Amnesty International is conducting long overdue research to examine why black women in the US die after childbirth at a rate of four times greater than white women and latina moms die at a rate of twice that of white women. If you do know someone to whom this has occurred, Amnesty International (AI) would like to speak to you. Please contact Rosa Cho by email at [rcho@aiusa.org](mailto:rcho@aiusa.org), or by phone at 212-633-4161, if you would be willing and able to work with AI in any capacity on this project.

#### **New IWHC Report on Child Marriage**

The International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC) announced the publication of *Child Marriage: Girls 14 and Younger At Risk* – the latest issue brief in IWHC’s series on young adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health and rights.

This is a very useful resource for your advocacy work that uses evidence on the marriage of girls ages 14 and younger to argue for more responsive policies and programs globally

Child marriage, as well as the other issue briefs in IWHC’s series on young adolescents, can be found at <http://www.iwhc.org/resources/youngadolescents>.

#### **New UN Foundation Report on Investing in Girls**

Our partners at UN Foundation helped in the release of this vital resource released by the Center for Global Development – *Girls Count: Global Investment and Action Agenda*. The report presents a survey and literature review on the vulnerabilities of young girls as well as the opportunities for empowerment. The authors have provided specific recommendations for civil society, governments, private-sector leaders, and donor agencies to create mechanisms for the meaningful participation of young women and adolescent girls in their programs and policy, helping to foster youth leadership and

gender-sensitive ideology. Please read it and tell us what you think. Is the youth voice adequately represented? <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/15154>

**Film shoot begins on abortion in Ethiopia for International Women’s Day**

On March 8th, Ipas began collaborating with acclaimed filmmaker [Lisa Russell](#). Russell is an independent filmmaker whose background in humanitarian and international development work has inspired her to produce films about the health and well-being of vulnerable people. Russell is filming a documentary in Ethiopia on unsafe abortion – its implications on the lives and well-being of young girls and women. She is accompanied by young poet, Bekah Dinnerstein, from New York who will be writing on her observations on her blog: <http://www.mythofthemotheland.blogspot.com>. Follow them as they record the stories of women who’ve had abortions throughout Ethiopia: <http://www.lisarussellfilm.blogspot.com>.

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