



World Alliance for Citizen Participation

e-CIVICUS

A Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter Promoting Civic Existence, Expression & Engagement

Please send contributions, comments and questions to editor@civicus.org

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ABOUT e-CIVICUS
The CIVICUS weekly electronic publication is keeping tens of thousands of people informed of the developments taking place in civil society, the factors that are affecting them and the impact they are having on creating an informed and knowledgeable civil society.

e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS
e-CIVICUS offers a useful channel through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions by Monday for publication in the coming week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read the contribution guidelines, [click](#)

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL



Let us be reminded of the courage that women display in their daily confrontation of inequality

By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

Allow me to share an impassioned account of my visit to the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut where I met a woman, Jamila, who reminded me of the courage that women show in their daily challenges against inequality.

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath

The Audacity of Jamila's Hope

Four days before the International Day of Women I had the opportunity to meet a woman who took my breath away. I was visiting the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut, home to over 12,000 Palestinians crowded into its 1 square kilometre. Jamila works at Bait Alfal Azzamood, an NGO providing basic services to the camp's children. Like the other residents, Jamila has lived her entire life in the cramped squalor of Shatila. Jamila showed us the gifts the children had made in preparation for Mother's Day, the racks holding their toothbrushes and shoes and their playrooms. She escorted us through the camp's claustrophobic, teeming streets before we stopped at a mosque converted into a graveyard where camp residents killed during the inhuman 1982 massacre by Phalangist militias tacitly backed by the Israeli Defence Forces are buried. Among those interred there is Jamila's mother. She recalled her futile efforts to nurse her mother during her last days – cut off from medical attention by the siege. In the time Jamila has lived at Shatila she has seen her meagre dwelling demolished 7 times. Each time she has rebuilt it.

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International Women's Day 2009

Source: UNIFEM

"Women and men united to end violence against women and girls" - Statement by Inés Alberdi, Executive Director, UNIFEM

[here.](#)

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Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin

The CIVICUS e-newsletter Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin is an action-oriented newsletter distributed to over 7,400 people, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civicus.org.

International Women's Day is an occasion to reflect on where we are in our struggle for equality, peace and development, and a chance to unite and mobilise for meaningful change. This year there is much to celebrate. The vision women marched for over a century ago, of a life free of poverty and violence, has spread to countries around the globe. People everywhere believe that lives of men and women can be different, and governments have the fundamental obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. *For details, [click here.](#)*

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

How are you or your organisation advocating for equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes?

- Working with marginalised women by developing and/or supporting local empowerment programmes
- Petitioning or cooperating with government officials to influence legislation and electoral law
- Analysing development policies to include gender perspectives
- No, we don't work on gender equality issues

To answer the question, [click here.](#)

Previous question: The health of the global economy will definitely improve in

- 2009
- 2010
- It will take longer than 2010

Results: a. - 70.6%, b. - 17.6%, c. - 11.8%

JOIN e-CIVICUS - BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR

e-CIVICUS keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. This e-publication seeks to encourage and amplify the voices of those struggling for a more just world. As a subscriber, you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work.

Why don't you suggest to your friends to register for a free subscription? They can send an email to subscriptions@civicus.org or fill out the subscription form [here](#). Alternatively, please forward their email addresses to us and we'll contact them on your behalf. Please send your contributions by Monday every week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

Assassination of Kenya human rights defenders

Source: Kenya National Commission for Human Rights and other Kenyan CSOs

Two leading human rights defenders, Mr. Oscar Kamau King'ara and Mr. John Paul Oulu (also known as GPO), both of Oscar Foundation, were executed in cold blood by a group of men in two vehicles.

CIVICUS channel on YouTube:
'Time 2 Act' Go to YouTube, [click here](#).



CIVICUS launches its 1
for 1 membership
campaign

Are you on of the
missing 86?

One CIVICUS member for every UN
member state, that's the goal of
CIVICUS' 1 for 1 Membership
campaign, [click here](#).

The two were driving to meet Mr. Kamanda Mucheke of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights at his office. Eyewitnesses have said that the assassins were policemen. In fact, the minibus driver was in police uniform. *For details, [click here](#).*

GCAP calls for fulfilment of aid obligations

Source: Global Call to Action Against Poverty

With less than a month until the G20 meeting in London, Kumi Naidoo, co-chair of the pressure group 'Global Call to Action Against Poverty' pleads for the richest countries in the world not to forget about their aid obligations to the world's poor. *For details, [click here](#).*

War on Terror has eroded human rights worldwide

Source: The South African Civil Society Information Service

Amy Goodman of Democracy Now speaks to former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and former president of Ireland, Mary Robinson. Robinson is president of the International Commission of Jurists, which has released a report that finds the so-called war on terror has eroded human rights worldwide. Robinson also addresses the ongoing Israeli siege of Gaza and takeover of the West Bank, the need for an independent investigation of Bush administration crimes, the global economic meltdown, and the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Robinson is the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the former president of Ireland, the first woman to hold the office. She is currently the president of the International Commission of Jurists and the president of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative. *For details, [click here](#).*

Financial crisis threatens legal protection for the poor

Source: UNDP News

The economic crisis will increase the demand for justice among the poor, according to economists and development experts taking part in a regional United Nations Development Programme meeting in Bangkok this week. *For details, [click here](#).*

UNICEF chief highlights Jordan's efforts to tackle violence against children in schools

Source: UNICEF

The head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has highlighted Jordan's efforts to tackle violence against children in schools, a problem affecting over half of the country's young people. "A recent study shows that more than one half of children in Jordan experience physical violence in school," UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman noted during her two-day visit to the country. *For details, [click here](#).*

ACCOUNTABILITY

What assures consumers in an economic downturn?

Source: AccountAbility

The impacts of the crash in the US housing market and subsequent economic downturn in the UK are only just becoming clear. Limited availability of credit is forcing the nationalisation of several financial institutions and a series of mergers and acquisitions. Increased competition on the high street for customers, with some retailers already closing shop, is driving retailers to take cost-cutting measures. But what does this mean for ethical consumption, and consumers' trust in the manner in which products have been made? consumption, and consumers' trust in the manner in which products have been made? AccountAbility has launched a report which will benefit business practitioners working on consumer assurance, as well as policy-makers and consumer groups. *For details, [click here](#).*

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

Millennium Campaign addresses climate activists at Powershift 09 Conference

Source: End Poverty 2015 Millennium Campaign

At the Powershift 09 conference held in Washington, D.C., the UN Millennium Campaign's North America Coordinator, Anita Sharma, told climate activists that climate change presents significant threats to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to eliminating poverty and hunger and promoting environmental sustainability. *For details, [click here](#).*

World's poor suffering most in the credit crunch

Source: The Guardian

The credit crunch is hitting the income of the world's poorest people the most and will make the UN's Millennium Development Goals more difficult to achieve than ever, according to research released today. The Global Monitoring Report from Unesco estimates the 390 million poorest Africans will see their income drop by around 20% - far more than in the developed world. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

GET INVOLVED!

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index Blog is now online!

Keep abreast of recent activities within the CSI team and program. Visit <http://civilsocietyindex.wordpress.com> and share the link with your colleagues, networks and stakeholders. This new blog will provide CSI partners as well as interested parties all over the world a more informal and interactive way of giving and getting updates during this implementation phase, and will serve as a hub of information for you to disseminate, access and interact with throughout the project. *For details, [click here](#).*

8th March – International Women's Day is Drawing Near

Source: Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC)

International Women's Day is drawing near. We know that some of you have planned your own activities. We are going to celebrate our conquests and achievements with vitality and renewed commitment to foster women's agenda. However, we know that many people of other countries are celebrating this day in a situation of conflict and/or deprivation of their rights. Within this context, a group of organizations advocating for women's rights involved in the campaign Gender Is My Agenda – GIMAC, decided to pay a special attention to our sisters from Zimbabwe. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

Economic crisis starts to hit world's poorest countries

Source: International Monetary Fund

After first striking the advanced economies and then emerging markets, a third wave of the global financial crisis has begun to hit the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries, threatening to undermine recent economic gains, IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn says. *For details, [click here](#).*

World Bank fast tracks funds for Armenia, Democratic Republic of Congo

Source: World Bank

Armenia had a strong growth record and rapidly falling poverty rates before the global economic crisis hit. Now, as growth falls and unemployment rises, the country is getting USD 35 million in expedited funding to create some 280,000 job days of employment in rural areas. Armenia is one of the first two

countries to benefit from a new USD 2 billion fund created by the World Bank last December to speed assistance to developing countries trying to cope with the financial crisis. A USD 100 million grant was also approved for Democratic Republic of Congo. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

CLIMATE JUSTICE

UN Agencies, shipping corporations to tackle environmental threats

Source: UNDP

The Global Industry Alliance is a partnership between the International Maritime Organisation, UNDP, the Global Environment Facility and four major private shipping corporations. It aims to tackle the threats of marine bio-invasions caused by the transfer of alien plants and animals in ship ballast tanks. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING

Corruption Fighters' Toolkit: Civil society experiences and emerging strategies

Source: Communications Initiative

This is a compendium of civil society anti-corruption experiences. Published in 2004, it presents anti corruption tools developed and implemented by Transparency International (TI) National Chapters and other civil society organisations from around the world that aim to create public awareness about the problem of corruption; monitor public institutions; encourage citizens' participation in key decision-making processes; and open channels of communication between governments and their citizens. The publication aims to highlight the potential of civil society to create mechanisms for monitoring public institutions and to demand and promote accountable and responsive public administration. *For details, [click here](#).*

PROFILES

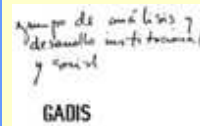
DONOR: The Baxter International Foundation

Baxter International Foundation, established by the Baxter International Inc. in 1981, began to focus exclusively on increasing access to healthcare in 2002 - particularly for the disadvantaged and underserved - in and near communities where Baxter employees live and work, world wide. It provides grants to NGOs to undertake programs that help communities to have quality healthcare in an affordable manner. Grants are made in different countries of the world where Baxter International Inc. has an office. The Foundation covers areas of dental, mental health, substance abuse and health services to those suffering from disability, domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. It also offers prizes to recognised community services through its Foster G. McGraw Prize. In most cases, the Foundation extends grants to those NGOs recommended by the local facility of the Baxter International Inc. Proposals are accepted round the year, but there are submission deadlines for each quarter and NGOs can submit proposals accordingly. *For details, [click here](#).*

MEMBER: OFOP - The National Federation of Polish NGOs

The National Federation of Polish NGOs was established in Warsaw in 2003 in the process of reinforcing organised representation of civil society in Poland. Their mission is to improve continual influence of citizens' organizations on decision-making processes. They advocate for a more

conducive environment for civil society and civil society participation in the legislative process. They support cross-sectoral partnerships, assist NGO representatives in institutional dialogue, cooperate with voluntary organisations, watchdogs, and think-tanks to ensure ongoing discussion on the condition of the civil sector and areas of future change. OFOP are committed to share best practice and work towards effective involvement of citizens on European level through international cooperation and trans-border initiatives. *For details, [click here](#).*



PARTNER: GADIS - Social and Institutional Analysis and Development Group

GADIS is a non-profit association created in 1987 in Buenos Aires, Argentina by a group of professionals and technicians. Since its creation, GADIS has dedicated itself to the promotion of three main goals: (1) the institutional strengthening of civil society organisations, (2) the development of active citizenship and increasing its incidence in public policy making, and (3) the creation and dissemination of knowledge relating to civil society. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more profiles...](#)

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society

Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights this week unveils its new guide for civil society actors - *Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society*. The new user-friendly guide explains how the different United Nations human rights mandates and mechanisms work, and how members of civil society, such as human rights defenders, non-governmental organisations and academic institutions, can engage with them most effectively. *For details, [click here](#).*

NGLS Report: Civil society consultation on the work of the President of the UN General Assembly's Commission of Experts on reforms of the international monetary and financial system

Source: UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)

In the wake of the global financial and economic crisis, the President of the United Nations General Assembly set up a Commission of Experts on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System to reflect on the causes of the crisis, assess its impacts on all countries and suggest adequate responses to avoid its recurrence and to begin the process of restoring global economic stability. The President of the General Assembly called upon the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) to bring together civil society-based expertise and insights and compile it into one report in order to inform the preparations of the President's Commission on Financial Reforms. NGLS accomplished this through a three-week online consultation (26 January-13 February). *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

United Nations headquarters in New York from 2 to 13 March 2009.

The fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 2 to 13 March 2009. The session will be attended by representatives of Member States, UN entities and of ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world. *For details, [click here](#).*

Friend Not Foe: How the Work of Charities Counters Terror

National Press Club, Zenger Room 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor Washington, DC

On 20 March 2009 a panel of NGO leaders from the U.S. and around the world will discuss how charities reduce the threat of terror by providing critical services and improving the welfare of millions of people and how security measures impede their work. A Q&A period will follow brief presentations. *For details, [click here](#).*

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WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Community Case Management: Improving the Health of the Most Vulnerable Children

11 March from 2:00 to 3:30pm at the Washington, D.C. offices of AED (1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW—Washington, DC).

USAID/BASICS will host a workshop entitled "Community Case Management: Improving the Health of the Most Vulnerable Children" led by Emmanuel Wansi, USAID/BASICS Senior Technical Officer. The session will cover the history of USAID/BASICS' involvement in community case management of childhood illnesses, with an emphasis on when and how to address policy issues, leveraging resources and collaborating in a multi-partner environment, and adapting tools for country-specific needs. A review of key results from USAID/BASICS interventions will be included as well. *For details, [click here](#).*

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

EC-UN Joint Migration & Development Initiative

Application Deadline: 27 March 2009

In line with the framework of the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative proposals are requested for projects which seek to create positive linkages between the phenomenon of migration and development in countries of migration origin, destination or transit. Projects proposed should be in one or more of the four thematic areas - migrant capacities, migrant communities, migrant remittances and migrant rights - and should take account of the guidelines produced for each area, which can be accessed via the links on the website. *For details, [click here](#).*

Nominate a Human Rights Defender for the RFK Center's 2009 Human Rights Award

Application Deadline: 15 March 2009

The Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award was established to honor courageous and innovative individuals striving for social justice throughout the world. Recipients are chosen through an extensive annual selection process. Every year from February until March, the public is invited to nominate creative and courageous non-governmental human rights defenders. A panel of five independent judges then selects the honoree. The recipients are awarded based on their dedication and accomplishments towards social justice and their non-violent and creative tactics used to achieve their goals. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

APPOINTMENTS

This week, new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#).

Should you wish to publish a **New Vacancy**, please click on [Add job](#). Please add an expiry date for

applications.

JOBS OF THE WEEK

Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Advisor

Application Deadline: 20 March 2009

The Technical Support Facility (TSF)

Location: Kathmandu , Nepal

For details, [click here](#).

Head of Knowledge Management and Information Services

Application Deadline: 15 March 2009

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

For details, [click here](#).

Regional Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Officer

Application Deadline: 28 March 2009

SNV West and Central Africa

Location: Burkina Faso

For details, [click here](#).

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