



A weekly e-newsletter for civil society from CIVICUS!

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Poll question

This week's question: Which of these is most impacted by climate change?

- Gender equality
- Human rights
- Poverty
- Health
- Developing countries

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

Previous question: How much time do we have to respond to climate change?

- Less than 10 years
- About 50 years
- About 100 years
- Till 7-18 Dec 2009 (COP15 UN Conference in Copenhagen)

Results: a. - 53.3%, b. - 6.7%, c. - 3.3%, d. - 36.7%

Get involved

Building the relationship between civil society and the media: how you can get involved!

Do you sometimes think that your civil society organisation would have been able to shed some light on the latest news story – if only you'd been asked? Do you want to make the expertise of your organisation more accessible to the media? If yes, you'll want to take part in this initiative. CIVICUS, in collaboration with the Inter Press Service (IPS) is developing a database to facilitate the relationship between civil society and the media. This database will contain the names and contact details for civil society organisations as well as their fields of expertise and the regions in which they work. The database will allow the media to quickly and easily find sources for their stories within civil society on a wide variety of themes. If you would like to be part of this database, [please complete the form](#). If you have any questions, please email us at [communication\(at\)civicus.org](mailto:communication(at)civicus.org).

Say No - Unite: End violence against women

Say No – UNITE to End Violence against Women is a global call for action, launched in November 2009, on ending violence against women and girls. It is presented by UNIFEM

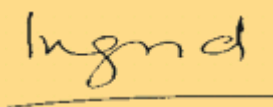
From the Desk of the Secretary General

Women should be more than window dressing

This week I was interviewed by Jedi Ramalapa from the Inter Press Service (IPS) to discuss the role of woman in global decision making. Here is her article:

Women in developing countries are among the most vulnerable to the effects of crisis - be that climate change, food price hikes, the HIV/AIDS pandemic or the global recession. It is becoming more commonplace to hear women's testimony, but are women's voices heard when it comes to deciding on solutions? IPS spoke to Ingrid Srinath, chief executive officer and secretary general of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, about women's exclusion from decision-making in global forums. To read the interview, [click here](#).

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,



"If the world's leaders need more inspiration before heading to the climate change summit in Copenhagen next month, they need look no further than East Africa." - Christopher Thompson (Quoted in Time, Nov. 17, 2009)

Hear from the CIVICUS board

New Zealand community governance project

Although there has been considerable discussion over the balance between the service delivery role and advocacy role of community organisations, there has been less focus on their actual and potential role in the "governance" of their local communities. We are exploring the relationships with local and central government of locally-based community associations. That is, those organisations that cover areas smaller than those served by formal Local Authorities; that are formed voluntarily and are concerned with issues of governance in their communities as well as carrying out activities or providing services. The interaction between the independence of community associations, the role of active citizens and the governance of a local community brings us to define these as "community governance associations". They go beyond the usual roles of advocacy and lobbying central and local government to themselves being directly involved in carrying out "government" functions. [Read more.](#)

David Robinson
CIVICUS Board Member

News in brief

Special issue on International Volunteer Day (5 December 2009)

The first issue of e-CIVICUS in December will be dedicated to celebrating International Volunteer Day (5 December). Articles on the theme of volunteering, especially those that show the work of volunteers and their impact on civil society, should be sent to [editor\(at\)civicus.org](mailto:editor(at)civicus.org) by 3 December 2009.

Special issue on Human Rights Day (10 December)

International Human Rights Day (10 Dec) will mark the 61st Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human. This year, the day will focus on non-discrimination. To mark this day and support the fight for non-discrimination and human rights for all, e-CIVICUS will produce a special issue on 10 December. Please provide your articles and commentary on whatever moves you about the theme of human rights to [editor\(at\)civicus.org](mailto:editor(at)civicus.org) by 8 December 2009.

CIVICUS condemns the Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Bill

Source: CIVICUS

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation condemns the introduction of the Anti Homosexuality Bill 2009 in the Uganda Parliament on 14 October 2009. The Bill contains derogatory references to members of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) community as well as sexual rights activists -- whom it accuses of "seeking to impose their values of sexual promiscuity on the people of Uganda." For details, [click here](#).

Conversation with Kumi Naidoo: "Africa is not responsible for climate change but it's paying the price"

as a contribution to advance the objectives of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women through social mobilisation. For details [click here](#).

We Welcome Contributions

e-CIVICUS is 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. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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Events

COP-15 Copenhagen climate conference

7 - 18 December 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

From 7-18 December, more than 15,000 people including government officials and advisers from 192 nations, civil society and the media from nearly every country in the world, will come together in the Danish capital, Copenhagen in one of the most significant gatherings in history. It is being called the most complex and vital agreement the world has ever seen. For details, [click here](#).

Participatory monitoring & evaluation in development projects

19-22 January 2010, New Delhi, India

The quest for value-added outputs and outcomes has led to stakeholder centric processes that take cognisance of the multi-actor environs of development projects. Inclusive approaches seeking functional participation of all key stakeholders mark the philosophy of learning and adaptive management. The idea of participation has been widely adopted at the local level to make development more effective and sustainable and to empower people to manage their own development. For details, [click here](#).

High level UN conference on South-South Cooperation

1-3 December 2009, Nairobi, Kenya

The General Assembly decided, by resolution 64/1 of 6 October 2009, that the Conference is to be held "at the highest possible level". It will have the overarching theme of "Promotion of South-South Cooperation for Development" and will consist of plenary meetings and interactive multi-sector stakeholder round tables on two sub-themes: (i) Strengthening of the role of the United Nations system in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation; and (ii) South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Development: complementarities, specificities, challenges and opportunities". For details, [click here](#).

Book Reviews

The Unheard Truth: Poverty and Human Rights in New York

Source: Amnesty International

Launching her book The Unheard Truth: Poverty and Human Rights in New York, Irene Khan argued that eradication of poverty requires respect of economic, social and cultural rights – such as health care, education and housing – alongside civil and political rights. "There can be no sequenced or partial approach to human rights if we want to solve poverty. Demanding participation rights is as important as directing resources to meet basic needs for food, health and shelter. Protecting people against violence is as crucial as ending discrimination. Reducing maternal mortality calls for better health care but also for the improvement of the status of women." For details, [click here](#).

Source: Duduzile Mathebula, CIVICUS

Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director, Greenpeace (and former Secretary General of CIVICUS) visited CIVICUS last week and spoke with our communications intern, Duduzile Mathebula, on climate change and civil society's expectations during the all-important COP 15 meeting in Copenhagen this December. The impact of climate change on developing countries is no longer just an environmental issue but an issue of human rights. Already, it has claimed over 300 000 lives worldwide according to the Global humanitarian Forum. There is a need for partnership with developed countries to produce more coordinated efforts in dealing with this issue. For details, [click here](#).

Alliance essay prize winners

Source: Alliance

The Alliance essay prize, which asked "As a philanthropist, how would you spend \$10 million to combat global warming?" has now been judged. The winners are Paul J Growald, Eileen R Growald and Joanna Messing. Their essay - The key is coal - will also be published in the upcoming December issue of Alliance. The £1,000 prize will be donated to further the Growald Family Fund's efforts to fight coal. The winning essay and the five runners up are now available to read online. Please [click here](#) to view the essays.

UN report points to central role women play in efforts to fight climate change

Source: UN News Centre

Climate change strikes its fiercest blow against the poorest, most vulnerable people around the world, according to a United Nations report released today, urging policymakers to heed the role of women – who make up the majority of the poor – in combating climate change. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) report warned that the poor depend more on agriculture for their livelihoods, risking hunger and loss of income when droughts strike, rains become unpredictable and hurricanes move with unprecedented force. For details, [click here](#).

Kyrgyzstan: Release rights activists

Source: Source: The Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights

The Kyrgyz authorities should immediately release the human rights activists Bakhrom Hamroev and Izzatilla Rakhmatillaev and allow them to continue their fact-finding work without further interference, Human Rights Watch said on 18 November. Representatives of the Kyrgyz State Service for National Security (SSNS) arrested the two men on 18 November in Osh, in southern Kyrgyzstan. Hamroev, a Russian citizen, works for the Russian rights group Memorial Human Rights Center. Rakhmatillaev is the head of Law and Order, an Osh group that investigates possible rights violations in southern Kyrgyzstan. Rakhmatillaev's son said his father's house was searched the same night. The activists were investigating accusations of government rights violations against individuals accused of extremism. For details, [click here](#).

Ban to focus on climate change during Trinidad and Tobago visit

Source: UN News Centre

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is hoping to boost momentum for December's climate change conference in Copenhagen when he meets with political leaders at the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago next Friday. The Secretary-General expects to focus the attention of these leaders on key issues that require their engagement in the climate change negotiations, in particular, concerning mitigation and finance. For details, [click here](#).

Bangladesh: Two years after Cyclone Sidr, survivors still seeking shelter

Source: IRIN News

Two years after Cyclone Sidr hit the southern coastal districts of Bangladesh, many of the survivors are still homeless and at severe risk from further disasters, officials say. Cyclone Sidr lashed the southern coastal regions of Bangladesh on 15 November 2007. Thirty districts were affected, with more than 3,400 deaths. Damage to property, livestock and crops was estimated at USD 1.7 billion, with half of that in the housing sector, according to the government. For details, [click here](#).

World leaders: Legally binding treaty out of reach in Copenhagen

Source: COP 15 Copenhagen

Heads of state gathered in Singapore this weekend conceded that the UN climate conference in three weeks will yield a political agreement only. US President Barack Obama and other leaders backed a two-step strategy proposed by the Danish host. For details, [click here](#).

New study: An energy miracle is needed

Source: COP 15 Copenhagen

Can any combination of known energy sources successfully supply society's energy needs at least up to the year 2100? Interesting question, but a somewhat startling answer: No, there is little likelihood that conventional fossil fuels and/or alternative energy sources can provide the amount and quality of energy needed, a new study by two prominent California-based environmental/economic think tanks asserts. For details, [click here](#).

Women in poor countries most affected by climate change

Source: COP 15 Copenhagen

Women suffer the most from drought, rising seas, melting glaciers and other consequences of climate change. Nevertheless, they are mostly ignored in the debate over how to halt it, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said on Wednesday, according to Reuters. For details, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Member profile

Srimangal Foundation

Srimangal Foundation expects gender equity, strengthening of civil society and justice & hunger freedom in all parts of Bangladesh. Their mission is to bring change in existing socio-economic conditions by raising their voice in participation and facilitation in people organisation, people who can take the leading role in materialising sustainable community development. Srimangal's work sector is to provide sustainable development in communities to improve their livelihoods, to flow-up on positive change from service providers regarding violence against the underprivileged in courts, police stations and hospitals. This is achieved through Dialo meetings and advocacy campaigns as well as other strategies. For more information please contact Tahera Khanam at sfbangla@yahoo.com or

For more book reviews, [click here](#)

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Check out our video channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/civiciusworldalliance>

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.

Legitimacy, Transparency and Accountability (LTA) Programme Officer

(Application Deadline: 20 November 2009)
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
For details, [click here](#).

Resident Director

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)
Location: Khartoum, Sudan
For details, [click here](#).

Resident Director

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)
Location: Juba, Sudan
For details, [click here](#).

Internship Programme

Africa in Democracy and Good Governance (ADG)
Location: The Gambia, West Africa
For details, [click here](#).

Civil Society Advisory Committee Member

(Application Deadline: 30 November 2009)
Commonwealth Foundation
Location: International
For details, [click here](#).

Subcontract Manager

CARE USA
Location: Atlanta or Washington, DC, USA
For details, [click here](#).

Chief of Party – Civic Education

Mercy Corps
Location: Tbilisi, Georgia
For details, [click here](#).

US Research Internship: Communicating Our Vision

Mercy Corps
Location: Cambridge, MA or Portland, OR
For details, [click here](#).

DevNetJobs: International Development Jobs Network

<http://www.devnetjobs.org>
DevNetJobs.org lists jobs and consulting opportunities arising within NGOs and CSOs globally free of charge. The objective is to enable these organisations to attract qualified human resources for their projects and activities. Over 9000 NGOs currently benefit from its services at no cost. To post jobs within your non-profit organisation, simply email them to jobs@devnetjobs.org

infosftahera@yahoo.com.

Resources

Bali to Copenhagen: A monthly newsletter on climate change

Source: Sustainable Development Resource Center

The October issue covers the latest round of negotiations in the lead article Progress at Bangkok. The significant issue was on a long-term global goal for emission reductions. Antigua and Barbuda, for AOSIS, said that minimising impacts of climate change on SIDS and the LDCs should be the benchmark, and proposed global emission reductions of 85% by 2050 from 1990 levels, with peaking by 2015, complemented by reductions by Annex I countries of more than 95% by 2050 from 1990 levels. For details, [click here](#).

Global Perspectives 2009: Outcomes

Source: Berlin Civil Society Center

On 6-8 November 2009, the Berlin Civil Society Center convened the first annual Global Perspectives conference for leaders of international civil society organisations (CSOs). Over 120 participants – including 19 global CEOs and 52 national CEOs as well as experts and key stakeholders – engaged in three days of highly interactive and outcome-focussed debates. Under the title Decisive Action in Times of Global Crisis, the conference discussed how CSOs can deliver more effective contributions to addressing the present global crisis. For details and outcomes from the conference, [click here](#).

Small thoughts around...Violence against women and ICTs

Source: GenderIT.org

One of the difficulties faced by women's rights advocates is the reluctance of some participants to see the internet as a political issue; unable to see that this refusal is in itself a political act. The lack of adequate resources, information or analysis that explores communications and technology policies that prevent, minimise or address harm to women is a material challenge faced by advocates working on violence against women. For details, [click here](#).

Opportunities

Human Rights Watch accepting nominations for Hellman/Hammett grants

Deadline: 17 December 2009

Human Rights Watch administers the Hellman/Hammett grant program for writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry who have been victims of political persecution and need financial support. The grant is intended for writers who make a living primarily from writing. It also considers activists who write to improve human rights issues. Nominations arising from crisis situations are accepted at any time. Writers who are in great danger and must flee their country or who need immediate medical treatment after being assaulted, imprisoned, or tortured may be considered for an emergency grant. For details, [click here](#).

10th diploma course on environmental journalism

Source: Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum (SLEJF)

Applications will be received from applicants for the above mentioned course to be conducted by the Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum (SLEJF) in collaboration with the Asia Pacific forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ) and the Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA). The course is designed to give the participants a wide ranging knowledge on aspects such as Creative Writing, Media Ethics, Development Journalism, Investigative journalism. Cinema, Poet, News, Feature and column writing, Language Using, Environmental Management, Pollution Control, Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Solid Waste Management, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), International Environmental Conventions, Environmental Economics, Bio diversity Conservation, Global Warming and Ozone Depletion and Forest etc For details, [click here](#).

Global Action Week 2010: Planning pack and registration

Source: Global Campaign for Education (GCE)

Global Action Week is the most campaign intensive part of the GCE calendar with national educational coalitions preparing for up to nine months in advance so that no opportunity is wasted and the week has maximum impact on decision makers. Global Action Week takes place at the end of April on the anniversary of the 2000 World Education Forum in Dakar where the Education for All (EFA) goals were affirmed. Since its inception, Global Action Week has been growing exponentially from 2 million people participating in 2003, over 14 million in 2009. In 2010 the focus will be on education financing and the campaign will be a precursor to the larger 1GOAL: Education for All campaign. To download the planning pack and registration form, [click here](#).

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