The Youth Community of Practice (YCoP) global listserv links professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to effective youth development ideas, information and best practices to help:

*Design more effective, sustainable youth programs, and
*Better integrate youth participation in USAID development projects

In this Links: Gender Series Part Two: Engaging Male Youth in the Fight against GBV
Last week’s YCoP Links focused primarily on the empowerment of young women and girls; however, to achieve gender equity, empowering young men and boys is equally as important. This Links draws attention to programs that tackle tough issues like masculinity as they engage young men and adolescent boys in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV). Inspirational and enlightening, these projects work with male youth on four continents, expanding their consciences and adding to the number of people in the world who seek to promote equality of all genders and prevention of violence.

Announcements:

YCoP Links Series Call for Suggestions of Programs, Projects, and Resources!
The April series of YCoP Links will focus on Health. Part One will be specifically devoted to sexual and reproductive health issues (including HIV/AIDS). Part Two will focus on other health issues (e.g., mental health, malaria, TB, malnutrition). We are seeking suggestions of innovative new projects or excellent resources that would fall into either of these categories. Links should be fairly up-to-date (i.e., the program, project, or organization should still be active, and the resource should either be one that is regularly updated or, if a publication, should not be older than two years). If you have an excellent, up-to-date link related to health and youth, please send it to skratzig@edc.org.

International Student Energy Summit
http://studentenergy.org/
The International Student Energy Summit (ISES) is a global forum that focuses on sustainable resource management and the role that students will play in defining the future of energy development. The Summit aims to educate students about the current issues in global energy management; instill in them the inspiration, knowledge, and courage needed to challenge the current energy system; encourage them to collaborate with the political, grassroots, and corporate communities to discuss current issues and create alternative solutions; and to unite them to lead the world to a sustainable energy future. The Summit has three primary foci: finance, regulation and sustainability; global energy cooperation; and technology and innovation. The event will take place in Calgary, Alberta Canada from June 11-13, 2009.

The International Youth Leadership Conference
http://www.czechleadership.com/
The 18th Annual International Youth Leadership Conference, organized by Civic Concepts International, is scheduled to take place in Prague, Czech Republic, in July 2009. The conference, which typically brings together around 120 university students, aims to promote a "cross-cultural exchange of young ideas concerning the future of world leadership." This year’s
conference features a United Nations Security Council emergency meeting simulation, a mock International Criminal Court pre-trial, a model European Parliament proceeding, visits to embassies, debates, and panel discussions. Early bird discount rates ranging from 5-15 percent are available until April 15. Also, Civic Concepts International offers 30 scholarships to students from underprivileged communities.

Projects and Initiatives:

**Sonke Gender Justice Network and the One Man Can Campaign, Africa**


The Sonke Gender Justice Network “works to build government, civil society and citizen capacity to achieve gender equality, prevent gender based violence and reduce the spread of HIV and the impact of AIDS.” It is based in South Africa and works in Southern, Eastern, and Central Africa. The One Man Can Campaign, which works with men and boys to “end domestic and sexual violence and to promote healthy, equitable relationships that men and women can enjoy - passionately, respectfully and fully,” is Sonke’s flagship project. Using research gathered via a variety of methods, including street surveys and focus group discussions, Sonke collaborated with a youth advisory team to design the campaign, which provides men, including young men, and boys with resources (i.e., the One Man Can Action Kit) to advocate and raise awareness about GBV.

In addition to the One Man Can Campaign, Sonke has a number of other projects that work on GBV issues. The Digital Stories project enables young people and adults affected by GBV and HIV/AIDS to share their stories and highlight the role both men and women are playing in confronting gender inequality and other forms of injustice. The stories are used to educate local communities, train service providers, inspire policymakers, and promote sustained community action. The Prisons Transformation project addresses issues of sexual violence in prisons, including juvenile prisons, in order to combat the spread of HIV.

**Youth Forums Against Gender-Based Violence, India**

[http://www.icprd.org/young_men.htm](http://www.icprd.org/young_men.htm)

The Independent Commission for People’s Rights and Development (ICPRD) works in India as a national advocacy coalition that focuses its efforts on “special and vulnerable constituencies.” The Youth Forums Against Gender-Based Violence (YFAGBV) project is one of ICPRD’s primary activities. Initiated in 2006, the project targets in-school and out-of-school male youth aged 14-24, whom YFAGBV deems “the possible perpetrators of tomorrow,” and instead makes them partners/allies in combating GBV. The project organizes these boys and men into youth forums and uses training, street theatre, and other techniques to help them become catalysts for change in their communities. As a result of the project, a significant number of participants have stopped “eve-teasing” (i.e., teasing girls on the street) and have begun working within their families and communities to stop domestic violence and other forms of GBV. The YFAGBV project engages stakeholders at all levels, from families to village heads.

**Instituto Promundo, Brazil**


Instituto Promundo is a Brazilian organization that works with youth and children “to promote more equal relations between men and women and to prevent interpersonal violence.” The organization focuses on two primary areas: 1) gender and health, and 2) violence prevention. Promundo’s Youth for Gender Equity (JPEG [Portuguese acronym]) program uses peer promoters to lead educational workshops where youth explore the links between gender issues, HIV/AIDS, and violence against women. Programa H, one of Promundo’s most well-known programs, challenges young men to explore the traditional norms of masculinity and engage in the promotion of gender equity and the prevention of violence against women. Promundo has
several other programs which address issues of homophobia, female sexuality, and violence against children.

**Western Balkan Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative**

Care International North West (NW) Balkans is implementing a GBV prevention initiative that works with young men aged 13-19 to examine the interaction of cultural norms of masculinity with young men’s attitudes towards women and/or violent behavior. As Phase 1 of the project, CARE International NW Balkans, partnering with the International Center for Research on Women, conducted a fieldwork study in 2007 that used a participatory learning and action approach “to determine the specific gender norms and expectations that contribute to violent behavior among young men.” Phase 2 of the project, which focuses on implementation of youth activities, is currently underway. Working with six youth service organizations from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Montenegro, the project is now in its second year and involves 3000 young men.

**Resources for Practitioners:**

**Interagency Gender Working Group**
http://www.igwg.org/default.htm

Established in 1997, the Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG) is a network that “promotes gender equity within population, health, and nutrition programs with the goal of improving reproductive health/HIV/AIDS outcomes and fostering sustainable development.” In order to achieve its mission, the network focuses on educating about and advocating for gender equity and developing gender-related operational tools. The IGWG has sponsored and funded programs, conducted gender trainings, and produced numerous publications and tools. The network has four priority areas: GBV, youth and gender, gender implications and vulnerabilities of HIV/AIDS, and constructive male engagement.

**Gender Matters: Manual on Gender-Based Violence Affecting Young People**
http://www.eycb.coe.int/gendermatters/contents.html

*Gender Matters* is a manual that aims to help youth educators and youth leaders better implement programs and projects related to GBV and young people. The manual contains three theoretical chapters that address gender (e.g., ideas of gender, the politics of gender), GBV, and mobilization against gender inequality and GBV. The fourth chapter offers exercises practitioners can use to discuss gender and GBV with youth. Finally, the appendices include summaries of the international legal instruments addressing GBV, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

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**Looking for YOUR input:** We would like to hear from you! YCoP welcomes ideas, resources, and best practices on effective youth programs and youth participation. We would also like to encourage nominations of other youth practitioners or youth leaders to participate in the YCoP Links listserv. Hit “reply” to send information and feedback to YCoP Links.

To unsubscribe from the list, users should send an e-mail to listserv@info.usaid.gov with only “unsubscribe youthcop” in the body of the e-mail. (No signatures please).

**Mission of YCoP:** The Youth Community of Practice provides a forum for professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to gather, consolidate, archive, disseminate and exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices, particularly related to the incorporation of youth participation in USAID development projects. The Youth Community of Practice is an informal body of volunteer members, reached through a global
list serve and Washington-based chapter. Both the list serve and DC chapter forums include USAID staff, youth practitioners outside of the Agency, and youth themselves. It is jointly sponsored by the office of education in the bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) at USAID and the Education Quality Improvement Program3 (EQUIP3), and implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC).

**Disclaimer:** The information and opinions expressed in the materials provided through YCoP Links or posted by listserv participants is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Government or EQUIP3. For a copy of the guidelines and/or charter, put the request in the subject line of the email and send to: youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov. Participants should be aware that the list is public and not private communication. When participants voluntarily disclose personal information on a list serve, that information can be collected and used by others and may result in unsolicited messages from other people.