

SENEGAL TIMES

Issue 1, July 1997-Present

SENEGAL TIMES

HILLARY CLINTON ARRIVES IN SENEGAL AND SUPPORTS ENDING FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING (FGC)

By Brooklyn Falk
February 2012



"This is not a women's problem, this is not a women's issue," said Clinton. "This affects the human family, and therefore, we all have a stake in it... We want to create conditions for every child, girl and boy, to have a chance to live up to his or her God-given potential." (ABC News, 2012)

The Secretary of State Hilary Clinton has arrived in Senegal on a tour through Sub-Saharan Africa. Amongst public declarations from the women of numerous villages to stop "cutting" their girls, Hillary states "we have to be both unrelenting in our efforts to end it and understanding about what works and what doesn't work" (ABC News, 2012). It has been through the relentless work of the Tostan program started by Molly Melching over the past two decades that the villages have come together to make the decision to stop the practice (Molloy, 2013).

This is not Hillary Clinton's first trip to Senegal. In 1997, the First Lady Hillary Clinton came to Senegal to meet Molly and hear about the Tostan program (Molloy, 2013). They traveled to the Village of Saam Njaay to show the incredible work accomplished through the organization (Molloy, 2013). Ms. Clinton and Molly have stayed in touch with Hillary stating that "Molly is a real hero of mine, a friend of mine," (ABC News, 2012).

After the first visit, Ms. Clinton, accompanied by President Bill Clinton, arrived back in Senegal to personally meet and applaud the women and community members who have made the decision to stop FGC (Molloy, 2013). At the conference, the issue of Human Rights and recognition on progress taken at a grass root level were discussed (Molloy, 2013).

Today, Hillary has come to see the continued progress the Tostan program has done. She also affirmed that a "partnership with the University of Nairobi to fund a pan-African Center of Excellence in Kenya to advance African research to address female genital cutting" will soon be taking place. (ABC News, 2012).



Hilary Clinton visiting Senegal (The Washington Post)

TOSTAN WINS CONRAD N. HILTON HUMANITARIAN PRIZE

"Tostan proves to be a leading example for community-led change"

By Paige Coutlee & Britney De Palma
March 2007



The non-profit organization Molly founded in 1991, Tostan which means 'breakthrough' in Wolof, has a vision which strives to provide "dignity for all" through further empowering communities (Tostan, 2020). An organization that is supported at both a grassroots level and across seas, Tostan proves to be a leading example for community-led change, and has successfully implemented 22 languages across 8 African countries (Tostan, 2020). Tostan demonstrates the utmost importance of education throughout the African countries which they work. Not only is health education focused on, but also addressing the topic of human rights and providing programs and workshops for more applicable life skills, for example, Solar Power! Project (Tostan, 2020).

The founder and creator of Tostan, Molly Melching, began her lifetime of endeavors and not-for-profit work in 1974 when she first travelled to Senegal on an exchange to further her studies (Molloy, 2013; Tostan, 2020). After concluding her studies, she established a children's center in Dakar where she worked for a duration of 6 years (Molloy, 2013; Tostan, 2020). During this time, her work included translating popular children's books to Wolof (native language in Senegal and various African villages) to provide literacy education for children (Molloy, 2013; Tostan, 2020). Molly also created the first ever program on the radio for children accessible in Africa's national languages (Molloy, 2013; Tostan, 2020). Finally, in later years, Molly developed the Community Empowerment Program (CEP) with the involvement of a team of Senegalese individuals not long before founding Tostan (Molloy, 2013; Tostan, 2020).



School of Nursing (John Barron)



(John Barron)

Specifically, Tostan's highly sought after Community Empowerment Program utilizes a human rights-based approach to inspire communities to take ownership of their own growth in order to achieve their fullest potential (Tostan, 2020). As an acknowledgement towards the great success Tostan had achieved, the organization received the prestigious Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize in 2007, which was accompanied with a donation of 1.5 million dollars to the organization (Tostan, 2020).

Tostan's Community Empowerment Program successes:

- ***Culminated female genital cutting (FGC) and enforcement of children to marry at a young age in 8830 communities from 8 countries***
- ***Promotion of grassroots democracy***
- ***Enhanced local economic opportunities***
- ***Increased female involvement in community and local governments***
- ***Promoting literacy and knowledge in mathematics***
- ***Greater management of malaria, HIV and AIDS and other communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCD)***
- ***Higher rates of enrollment of girls in the school system***
- ***Protecting the health of mother's and their babies***
- ***Defending the rights of children***

(Tostan, 2020)

WOMEN'S HEALTH

VILLAGE OF MALICOUNDA BAMBARA ENDS FGC



Delivery Room (John Barron)

By Jordon Haggerty
July 1997



"Female Genital Cutting has been performed on at least 200 million girls and women in 31 countries" (UNICEF, 2020)

Female genital cutting refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons (UNICEF, 2020).

The village of Malicounda Bambara has decided to end the practice of female genital cutting. Thirty-five women gathered in the public square in Malicounda Bambara to share the information on human rights they learned and explain the decision to stop the longstanding practice of female genital cutting (Molloy, 2013). Female genital cutting has been

performed on at least 200 million girls worldwide in thirty-one different countries (UNICEF, 2020). Most girls are subjected to female genital cutting before the age of fifteen (UNICEF, 2020). Girls subjected to cutting are at an increased risk of becoming a child bride, and dropping out of school (UNICEF, 2020). Some communities endorse FGC as a means of controlling girls sexuality, of safeguarding their chastity (UNICEF, 2020).

Other communities may require females to be "cut" as a prerequisite for marriage or inheritance (UNICEF, 2020). Female genital cutting is not endorsed by Islam or Christianity but religious narratives are commonly employed to justify it (UNICEF, 2020). Female genital cutting can lead to serious health complications including, death, haemorrhaging, shock, infection, urine retention, and severe pain (UNICEF, 2020).

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

DEHYDRATION: EARLY WARNING SIGNS IN CHILDREN



(UNICEF)

By Jordon Haggerty
May 2019



Dehydration occurs when the body loses excessive amounts of water (UNICEF, 2019). The most common cause of dehydration is diarrhea and vomiting (UNICEF, 2019). Early warning signs of dehydration include; thirst, dry mouth, moist fingers or toes, absence of urine, sunken eyes and cheeks, a sunken fontanel, dizziness and a weak pulse (UNICEF, 2019).

An indication that an infant may be dehydrated is no wet diapers for three hours (UNICEF, 2019). A sign that an older child may be dehydrated is no urination within eight hours (UNICEF, 2019). Dark coloured urine is also a sign that a child may be dehydrated (UNICEF, 2019).

Breastfeeding is the best way to treat mild dehydration in infants (UNICEF, 2019). For older children, sips of clear liquids are the best treatment for mild dehydration (UNICEF, 2019).

When treating mild dehydration in a child, start with small sips and see what they can tolerate (UNICEF, 2019). Seek medical attention if your child has experienced weight loss, decreased urine production, a fever, severe nausea that prevents intake of fluids, dark urine, weakness, cold and blotchy feet and hands, fatigue, no tears when crying or increased or constant vomiting for more than a day (UNICEF, 2019). In severe cases of dehydration intravenous therapy is needed (UNICEF, 2019).

OBITUARIES



By Paige Coutlee & Britney De Palma

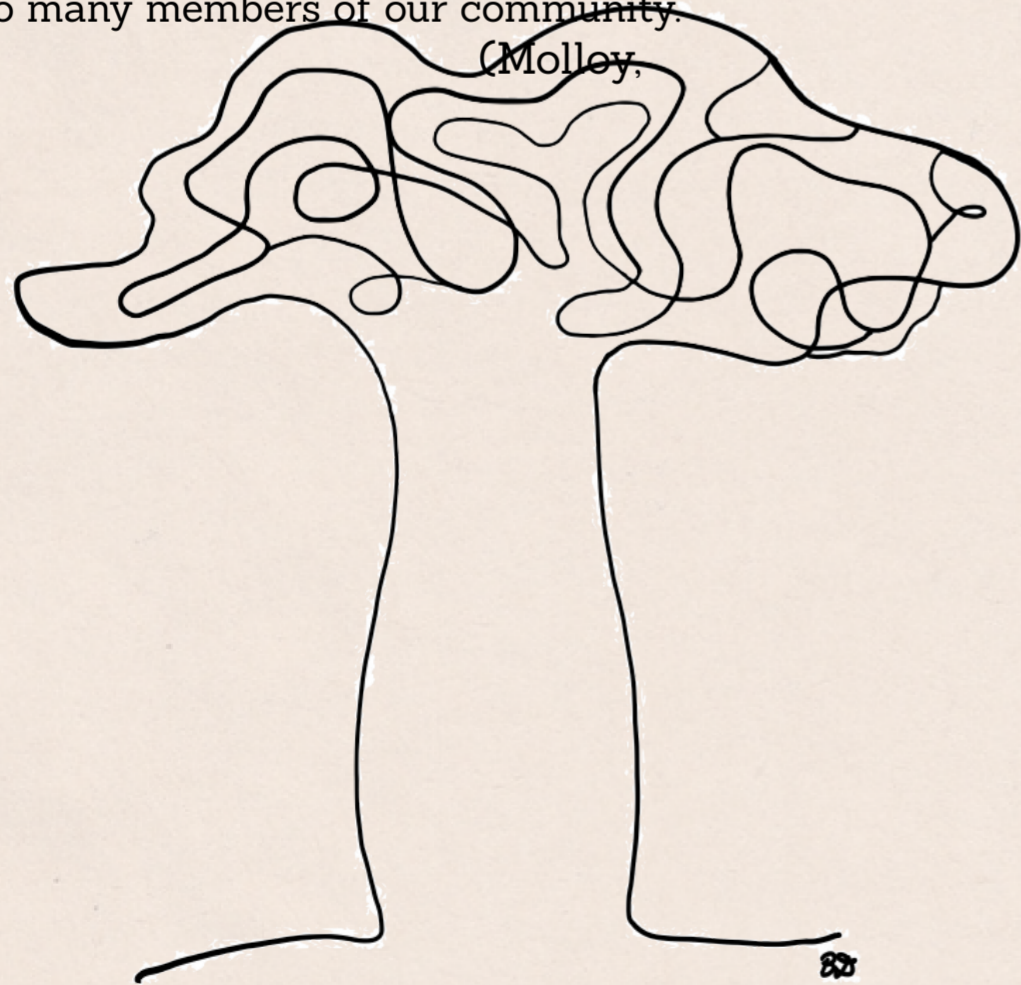
Anna Vivian Lineberry Melching ("Ann")
Although Ann and her daughters had a strained relationship over the years, the death of Ann was nevertheless heartbreaking. Ann had very conservative views while always wanting her daughters to be financially stable and successful in their upbringing. She was a mother who always wanted nothing but the best for her two girls, and though their paths in life were different than what she had in mind as a mother, she was always proud of the independent women her daughters have become. Ann is survived by her two daughters Molly and Diane, Diane's husband loving Michael and her beautiful granddaughter Zoé.

(Molloy, 2013)

Albert Frederick Melching ("Al")

Al, a man who touched many of the lives of those around him was taken from us far too soon in his courageous battle with cancer. Just as Al displayed resiliency in all that life had to offer him, he managed his cancer with strength and grace, wanting to spend every moment possible with his loved ones. One of Albert's biggest accomplishments was being a father. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Ann and a loving, protective father to their 2 daughters, Diane and Molly. Al was a proud and noble man, serving and fighting for our country in the Second World War. Through the many hardships and challenges that life has to offer, Al always persevered to enjoy every moment life has to offer. Al always aimed to make people around him smile; remembered by his children as an adored clown due to his clever puns, practical jokes and ability to make others laugh. His family will forever remember Al as the loving, generous and supportive man that he was to so many members of our community.

(Molloy, 2013)



Alaaji Mustaafa Njaay
Alaaji Mustaafa Njaay, a loving and cordial father figure to his many children passed on from his journey with us here on Earth after 104 inspiring and impactful years. As a leader and chief in his community, Alaaji will be eternally commemorated for his wisdom, strength and compassion. His children feel blessed to have had such an inspirational role model to look up to and will never forget the advice and guidance that he provided them with growing up. Alaaji passed away surrounded by his loved ones who will continue to honour his legacy forever but not before offering his last piece of wisdom. "Never lose hope ... However long the night, the sun will rise" (Molloy, 2013, p.111).

(Molloy, 2013)

Cheikh Anta Diop
It is with great sadness that the unexpected loss of Cheikh Anta Diop is announced. As an inspirational mentor and role model to many, Cheikh Anta's legacy will never be forgotten. His knowledge and insight as a scholar studying the relationship between politics, culture and ethnicity will be forever valued and the impact he has made in society will only continue to flourish. Cheikh Anta's heart, compassion and memory will be respected and admired for lifetimes to come.

(Molloy, 2013)

Pooler
Baby Pooler passed away quite suddenly after life saving efforts were attempted. She will be greatly missed by her mother and loved ones amidst this tragic loss. Though her life was very short, she received immense love from those around her. (Molloy, 2013)

Rama's Son
Rama's infant son passed gently in her arms shortly after being welcomed earthside. During his short time here with us on Earth he touched many of the lives of those around him. Rama's son is deeply loved and his short life will never be forgotten. Rama's son will forever continue to be blessed and commemorated by this community. (Molloy, 2013)

Mariama
We are saddened to announce the passing of 3 month old Mariama. This loss has been devastating for the family as she is Kerthio's first born child. We pray that Mariama will find her way to a beautiful place and for new life to bless us on this Earth to lessen the pain Mariama's loss has caused. (Molloy, 2013)

Anta Jite's Daughter
After strenuous labor and delivery, Anta Jite's newborn daughter sadly did not survive. The tragic loss of her newborn has brought on eminent sadness. Baby Jite's body was prepared and buried and a lovely ceremony was held for the loved ones. (Molloy, 2013)

*Underneath the baobab tree
There is a slight breeze
Which sounds as though it is the hum of those now set free
Once caught glimpse of violence
We no longer stay in silence
We refuse to stand and scream at the forest
But instead we stand up for the ones who were lost in a tight knit chorus
In beautiful harmony
What was lost was not in vain
So fighting we still remain
For those delicate flowers of demise
The blooming petals we patiently await
However long the night, the sun will rise*

The Departure - Britney De Palma

HUMAN RIGHTS & ETHICS



(Elin Martinez)

After the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations by a unanimous vote on the 10th of December 1948, the fondly-remembered former United States First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who oversaw the drafting of the declaration, stated:

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." Eleanor Roosevelt (Branch, M., 2005)

And so it is: Human Rights are everyone's rights. Yet here in Senegal, there are still many transgressions or lack of acknowledgement that we all share these same rights with other signatory nations to the UDHR. Senegal villagers have been engaging and learning through the Community Empowerment Programs since 1991 which are being provided by our beloved Tostan (Tostan International [TI], 2020).

The lessons contained in the Kobi and the Aawade have been the key instruments in bringing about these changes (TI, 2020). Our communities have grown through these teachings, and we have come to understand that learning to read and write, our health, hygiene, child welfare, human rights and democracy are all things we are entitled to know about and be a part of and also be proud of (TI, 2020).

Women and children's rights are at the forefront of efforts in ensuring that the human rights that we all have are continuing to be recognized. Our laws in Senegal have evolved to recognize that Female Genital Cutting goes against our collective human rights; the law provides criminal penalties for the perpetration of the violence of FGC on women and girls, and yet no cases were prosecuted during the past year (U.S. Department of State (USDS, 2021). At the Senegal Times, we have mixed feelings about this outcome; though we understand that education and enlightenment is the most favourable way forward versus the alternative of punishment (USDS, 2021). The National Minimum hourly wage is now higher than the estimated poverty income rate of \$1.90 per day (USDS, 2021)! The Ministry of Labour has been responsible for enforcing the minimum wages, which also apply to foreign and migrant workers, as well as maintaining a work week of between 40-48 hours, and not more than 2,080 hours per year (USDS, 2021).

However, we are still having problems with child labour, especially on farms in rural areas where up to 90% of all children work, and the informal economy where labour regulations are not being enforced and work is being performed without the proper training or use safety equipment (USDS, 2021). The other problems we are encountering with child labour is that these children are not being permitted to attend school to receive appropriate educational opportunities which will permit them to have more opportunities in the future.

Human rights in Senegal are alive and well, yet there are many areas that we can improve upon. We are again grateful for the teachings of Molly Melching and the advances that we are making as a nation here in Senegal through the award-winning efforts of Tostan (Tostan Int'l, 2020).

By John Barron
March 2021





TAKE THE TRIP!

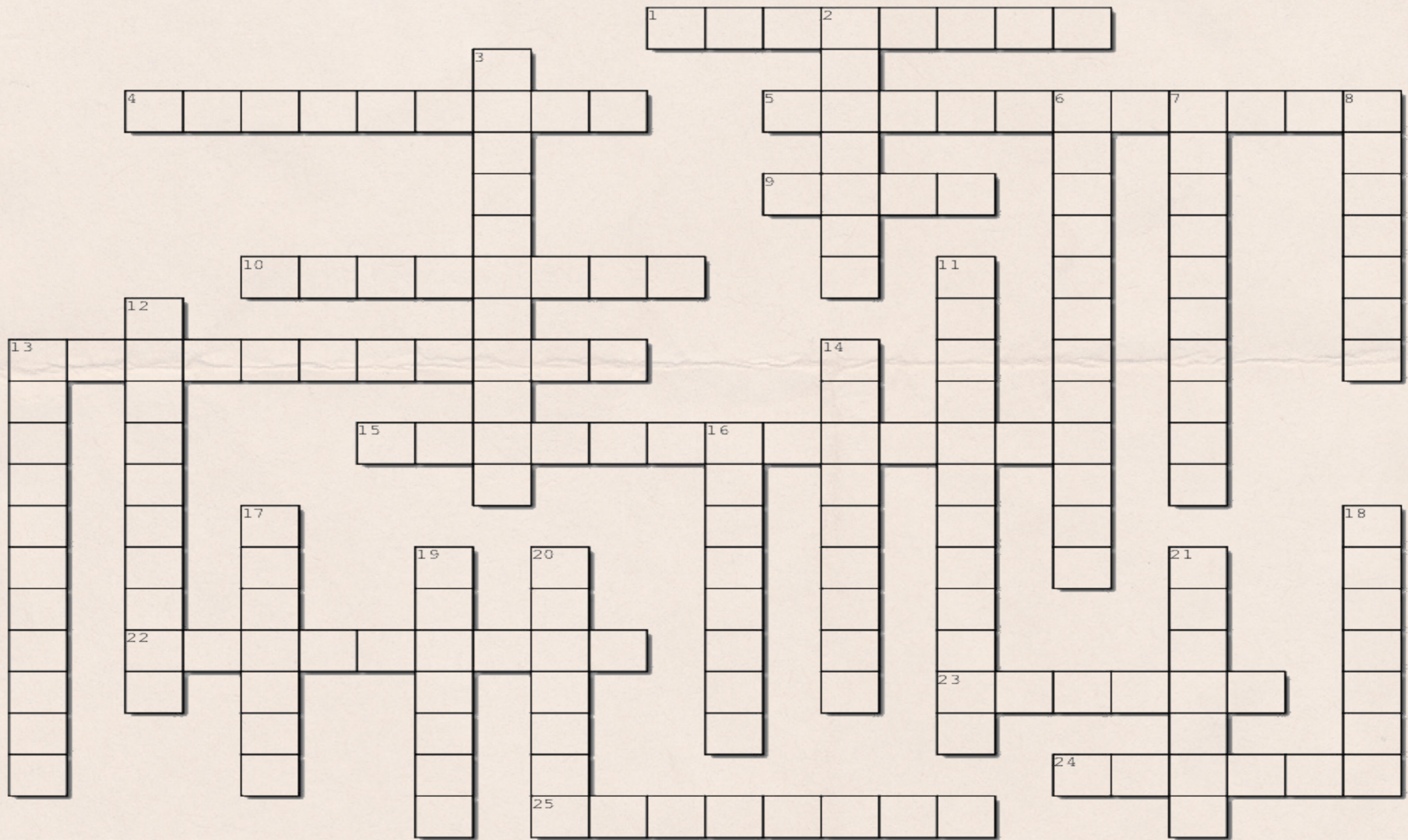
From \$312.00 per adult

Enjoy an authentic African safari in Senegal at the Fathala Safari Lodge. Observe giraffes, rhino, buffalo, warthog as well as red colobus, green vervet and red patas monkeys in their natural habitat. Guided safari tours, lion encounters, boat tours and bush walking available. See <https://www.fathala.com/> for more details and booking availability.

BANDIA PARK AND PINK LAKE SAFARI

Wolof Crossword

Find the Wolof word associated with the English word or phrase



Across

- 1. Courage
- 4. Feet of Peace
- 5. Wife and Mother
- 9. Brooms
- 10. A religious leader believed to have supernatural powers
- 13. Showing the way
- 15. Breaking the silence
- 22. From Practice to Theory
- 23. The hatching of an egg " the breakthrough moment when the chick emerges from the shell"
- 24. The decision
- 25. Human Rights

Down

- 2. Empathy
- 3. The newcomer
- 6. Thanks be to God
- 7. Teaching
- 8. Deliverance
- 11. Deep Learning
- 12. Welcome
- 13. Choosing Dialogue
- 14. Yesterday and Today
- 16. A girl who is not cut
- 17. Coming into her own
- 18. Dawn of a New Day
- 19. Perseverance
- 20. A traditional colourful dress
- 21. The Public Declaration

References:

ABC News. (2012, February 16). Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Highlights Need to End Female Genital Cutting; New strategies are planned to eradicate female genital mutilation.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/international-day-tolerance-female-genital-mutilation-hosted-hillary/story?id=15683580>

Branch, M. (2005). 10 Inspiring Eleanor Roosevelt quotes. United Nations Foundation. <https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/10-inspiring-eleanor-roosevelt-quotes/>

Human Rights Watch. (2018, June 14). Leave No Girl Behind in Africa: Discrimination in Education against Pregnant Girls and Adolescent Mothers. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/06/14/leave-no-girl-behind-africa/discrimination-education-against-pregnant-girls-and>

Molloy, A. (2013). *However long the night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph*. HarperOne.

Tostan. (2020). Tostan International. <https://www.tostan.org/>

Tostan (2021) In Wikipedia. Retrieved March 23, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tostan>

UNICEF. Dehydration: Early Warning Signs and Treatment. (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/dehydration-early-warning-signs-and-treatment/35696>

UNICEF. Female genital mutilation. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/protection/female-genital-mutilation>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (2021) in Wikipedia. Retrieved March 23, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Declaration_of_Human_Rights

U.S. Department of State (2021). 2017 Senegal Human Rights Report. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/senegal/>



VISIT THE
MARCHE HLM
Flea & Street Market



Student nurses outside of Male Circumcision Clinic in Senegal (John Barron)