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GFI Newsletter: Celebrating Fairness

Congratulations to the 2012 Fairness Award honorees!

On November 13th, Washington, DC's development and international communities gathered to honor grassroots and grass tops leaders. GFI and the Howard Theatre welcomed guests to the 3rd Annual Fairness Award honoring **Her Excellency President Joyce Banda** of the Republic of Malawi, **Ambassador Melanne Vermeer**, and **Ms. Lucy Kanu** of Nigeria.



News4's Jim Vance opened the evening, which included remarks from GFI founder Karen Tramontano and award presentations by **President Jose Maria Figueres**, **Senator Jeanne Shaheen**, and the **Honorable John Podesta**. Presenting the first award, Podesta highlighted the theme of the evening: "Lucy Kanu so clearly embodies the spirit of this award – when those at the grassroots connect with those at the grass tops through public- and private-sector innovation, education, entrepreneurship, and new media, when these real partnerships happen, that's when real change will follow."

Accepting her award, President Banda applauded all the honorees, presenters, and GFI supporters: *"Where would the women of the world be without you? Your extraordinary leadership on issues affecting women across the globe is historic and unparalleled. . . . We all know that poverty alleviation is extremely difficult, but we also know that helping the poor is our calling."*

[View Images from the Award Event](#)

[View the video of President Banda's speech.](#)

[View VOA coverage of the Fairness Award.](#)

The entertainment and enthusiasm continued after the award ceremony with an uplifting performance by musical guest **Sweet Honey in the Rock**. Their music reflected the sense of optimism among all present about the positive impact dedication and collaboration make possible. We would like to thank all our friends and supporters, including our premier sponsors:

LEADERSHIP SPONSORS: The Tramontano Family and Tupperware Brands

STAR SPONSORS: BlueStar Strategies; Clti; ExxonMobil; Glover Park Group; Vital Voices; Walmart; and West Wing Writers

DIAMOND SPONSORS: AFL-CIO; American Federation of Teachers; Third Way; and Teresa Rankin, John Wilson and Jessie Washington.

The entire team at GFI is grateful to everyone who attended and supported the Fairness Award, and we look forward to hosting you again next year.

GFI announces new BeFair Campaign

As GFI has proved through our SaltLantern and Farmer Livelihood Campaigns for BeFair, technology doesn't have to be complicated or expensive to change people's lives. In 2013 GFI is taking its BeFair Campaign back to Northern India to bridge the technology gap for 2,000 farmers. For as little as \$30, BeFair supporters can help us deliver a fuel-efficient, clean-burning cookstove to an Indian farming family.

GFI is in the process of updating our BeFair Campaign website to bring you more information about this important drive to provide families in poverty with safer, healthier homes.

GFI welcomes new Program Manager

GFI's Board and Staff are thrilled to welcome **Halima Gellman**, our new Program Manager. Originally from Northern California, Halima has an M.S. from New York University in International Relations with a focus on the Middle East. She has worked on issues relating to refugees, women, and peace building in Sudan, Egypt, South Africa, Algeria, and Yemen.

Prior to joining GFI, Halima worked as a consultant for the International Labor Organization in Cairo, where she partnered with UN Women to prepare a gender gap assessment of Cairo businesses. She spent 9 months in Yemen from 2011 to 2012 conducting research for her thesis entitled "Yemeni Women in the Revolution: Building a Women's Agenda" to be published in January by *The Program for Arab Reform and Democracy at Stanford University*. She has also published

articles in the *Christian Science Monitor* and the *Yemen Times*.

Halima has jumped right into her work for GFI, traveling to Tunisia to coordinate with our local partners on the management of the Tunisia Inclusive Labor Initiative.

"We must find opportunities to make change happen -- we must not tire, we must not give up, we must persist."

Melanne Verveer
U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global
Women's Issues
2012 Fairness Award Honoree

GFI Supporters Throw New Year's Eve Bash

DC's **Going Out Groups** have raised thousands for GFI and the BeFair Campaign through their charity happy hours.

Now they're inviting you to join them New Year's Eve at the Grand Hyatt in Penn Quarter.

[20's & 30's Celebration](#)

[30's & 40's Celebration](#)

Make a Year-End Donation to the Global Fairness Initiative



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