



News Release

June 23, 2021

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## **FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE AND ICRW AWARDED \$100,000 PRIZE FOR GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT PROJECT**

San Francisco, California, June 23, 2021 — Futures Without Violence (FUTURES) and partner International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) are the recipients of a \$100,000 prize championed by Columbia Business School (CBS) students and funded by leading global philanthropists and foundations, including the Ford Foundation.

The prize will support FUTURES' Changing the Game for Girls/Coaching Boys Into Men project, implemented domestically by FUTURES and in India by ICRW. The project is the only evidence-based prevention program of its kind proven to lower instances of teen sexual and relationship violence by embedding prevention education into regular youth sports practices.

"We are deeply honored to be the recipient of this prize. Girls are incredible agents for change and we know investing in their leadership and success ignites a profound multiplier effect," said Brian O'Connor, Co-Founder of the project at FUTURES. "This effect helps ensure healthier outcomes not only in their lives, but for the entire community and society at large."

"What better way to support girls than to work with boys to become their allies," said Dr. Ravi Verma, Director of ICRW's Asia office. "Through the Coaching Boys Into Men program, we work with coaches, as powerful role models, to teach young male athletes the importance of respecting women and unlearning the socialized belief that violence is a sign of masculinity. With this generous investment, and through our partnership with FUTURES, we look forward to expanding the program to reach more boys, strengthening the social safety net for girls, and advancing equity."

The prize was launched as a collaboration between Lever for Change, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and Columbia Business School, which teamed up to put the power of philanthropy and social impact into the hands of young people.

Students at CBS were challenged to review the highest-rated projects in a recent MacArthur Foundation 100&Change funding competition. Then, through a rigorous competition of their own, they chose the most impactful project.

"Open competitions like 100&Change uncover a greater number of excellent organizations -- like FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE and ICRW -- than can be funded by a single donor," said Jeff Ubois, Vice President of Knowledge Management at Lever for Change. "Yet the grant proposals foundations receive are shared rarely, if at all. Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, the Columbia Business School, and donors

supporting this award to FUTURES are showing the value of freely exchanging information — through services like our Bold Solutions Network."

FUTURES and ICRW will use the award funds to bring the program to even more communities around the world.

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#### **About FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE**

FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE is an international nonprofit health and social justice organization providing groundbreaking programs, policies, and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world, help individuals and communities heal, and prevent violence before it happens. For more than 40 years, we have worked to transform social norms, training professionals such as health providers, judges, educators, and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. We also work with advocates, policy makers, creative artists, and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about respect and healthy relationships. For more information, visit <https://www.FuturesWithoutViolence.org/>

#### **About International Center for Research on Women**

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is a global applied research institute with offices located in Washington, D.C.; New Delhi, India; Nairobi, Kenya; and Kampala, Uganda. Anchored in the principle of human dignity, ICRW advances gender equity, inclusion and shared prosperity. For over 40 years, ICRW has worked closely with non-profit, government and private sector partners to conduct research, develop and guide strategy and build capacity to promote policies, programs and practices rooted in research.

For well over a decade, ICRW has applied our research to school- and community-based programs that catalyze gender equity movements, change the dialogue on men and masculinities, confront online and offline gender-based violence and address systemic power dynamics. ICRW's partners range from community members and teachers to project implementers and policymakers. Our goal is to find evidence-based solutions to the greatest challenges that face us. For more information, visit <https://www.ICRW.org/>

#### **About Lever for Change**

Lever for Change, a nonprofit affiliate of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, helps donors to find and fund solutions to the world's greatest challenges, ranging from racial and gender equity to economic development and climate change. Building on the success of the MacArthur Foundation's \$100 million competition, 100&Change, Lever for Change customizes and manages open and transparent competitions for donors. In addition, the organization matches donors with nonprofits and social enterprises in its Bold Solutions Network, which includes solutions to significant social challenges that were highly ranked after rigorous evaluation in one of Lever for Change's competitions. The organization has developed and managed ten competitions, ranging in size from \$10-to-100 million, unlocking \$559 million in funding for high-impact solutions and strengthening dozens of top organizations. For more information, visit [www.LeverForChange.org](http://www.LeverForChange.org).

#### **About Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors**

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors is a nonprofit organization that currently advises on and manages more than \$400 million in annual giving by individuals, families, corporations and foundations. Continuing the Rockefeller family's legacy of thoughtful, effective philanthropy, RPA remains at the forefront of philanthropic growth and innovation, with a diverse team of experienced grantmakers with significant depth of knowledge across the spectrum of issue areas. Founded in 2002, RPA has grown into one of the world's largest philanthropic service organizations and has facilitated more than \$3 billion in grantmaking to more than 70 countries. RPA currently serves as a fiscal sponsor for more than 90 projects, providing governance, management and operational infrastructure to support their charitable purposes. For more information, visit <https://www.rockpa.org/>.