



THE *Isabel Allende*
FOUNDATION

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NEWS RELEASE

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Isabel Allende Supports Champions of Reproductive Rights
Espíritu Award Grants to Center For Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood

SAUSALITO, Calif., October 22, 2012 — Internationally acclaimed author Isabel Allende announced today that the Center for Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., two organizations committed to upholding reproductive rights worldwide—even as those rights come under increasing assault—are the recipients of her foundation’s 2012 Espiritu Awards.

The **Center for Reproductive Rights** is a legal advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement of reproductive rights globally, including their recognition as a fundamental human right. **Planned Parenthood** is the nation’s leading sexual and reproductive health care provider and advocate.

“Reproductive rights are human rights,” said Allende. “They are essential if every woman is to realize her full potential and participate as an equal partner in her family and community. As opponents of reproductive freedom redouble their efforts to deny women control over their own bodies, the work of the Center for Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood becomes all the more imperative.”

Each organization receives a grant of \$40,000 and will be honored by Allende at a private event in New York. The Isabel Allende Foundation’s annual Espiritu Awards support organizations that protect and empower women and children.

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The 2012 Espiritu Grantee Profiles

Center for Reproductive Rights—*Changing the Law*

For 20 years the Center for Reproductive Rights has used the law to advance reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right that all governments are legally obligated to protect, respect and fulfill. As the only global legal advocacy organization dedicated to reproductive rights with expertise in both U.S. constitutional and international human rights law, the Center brings ground-breaking cases before national courts, United Nations committees, and regional human rights bodies. The Center influences the law outside the courtroom as well, documenting abuses, working with policy makers to promote progressive measures, fostering legal scholarship, and teaching about reproductive health and human rights.

“The Center for Reproductive Rights is waging a ferocious defense of reproductive freedom in the courts of law and public opinion against those who seek to limit women’s family planning options, even at the expense of their health,” said Allende. “It plays an indispensable role in the worldwide battle over reproductive rights.”

CONTACT: www.reproductiverights.org

Planned Parenthood—*Delivering Vital Services*

For more than 90 years, Planned Parenthood has promoted a commonsense approach to women’s health and well being, based on respect for each individual’s right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex and family planning. Planned Parenthood plays many roles, serving as health care provider, educator and advocate, and as a partner helping similar organizations around the world. Millions of women, men and young people benefit from its services, more than 90 percent of which are preventing unintended pregnancies through contraception, reducing the spread of sexually transmitted infections through testing and treatment, and screening for breast, cervical and other cancers.

“No amount of lying, bullying or violence can change the fact that one in five women in America, and millions more around the world, rely at some time in their lives on Planned Parenthood for safe medical care,” said Allende. “Those of us committed to its future success must step forward to defend Planned Parenthood against forces working overtime to turn back the clock on women’s reproductive rights.”

CONTACT: www.plannedparenthood.org

About the Isabel Allende Foundation

Founded in 1996 in honor of the author’s daughter, who died at age 28, the Isabel Allende Foundation supports select nonprofits dedicated to providing women and girls with reproductive self-determination, healthcare and education, as well as protection from violence, exploitation and discrimination. It envisions a world in which girls can achieve their full potential and women are able to participate as equal members of society.

For more information, visit www.isabelallendefoundation.org. Additional information about the author can be found at www.isabelallende.com.