

Gifts of Speech
News

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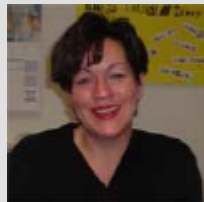
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1. Love Your Body Day



Love Your Body Day is October 18th.

Advertising and the media work hard, but subtly, to convince people their bodies are not attractive, good to smell, or even healthy.

Diets, hair dye, cosmetic surgeries, and abundant unnecessary prescriptions channel themselves into our perceptual space daily.

Is your hair grey? Are your eyes dry? Are your legs twitchy? Do you have lines on your forehead? Thank goodness you can spend money to correct all of these personal deficiencies!

Or maybe if we appreciated ourselves just a little more we would find we don't need all that stuff. The [NOW Foundation](#) sponsors **Love Your Body Day**. 2007 marks the 10th year of celebrating women's bodies and the choices that make them healthy instead of nicotine addicted, bound inside torturous fashions, or nipped and tucked into plastic "perfection".

At their website you can enter the [2008 poster competition](#), find suggestions for combating negative body images of women on campus and even send an e-card to a friend. There are also [Tips for Teachers When Talking About Advertising to Students](#).

Love your body, my friends. It's gotten you this far! Visit the web site at the link below.

If you hear of an interesting or positive story about women, please share it with me by emailing me at:
lizkentgos at gmail dot com

Thank you!
--Liz

Link: <http://loveyourbody.nowfoundation.org/>

2. Will Terrorists Silence Free Speech?



Ayaan Hirsi Ali, the controversial script writer for murdered Dutch film maker [Theo van Gogh](#), may soon lose her security guards. Hirsi Ali was threatened with death in a note stabbed through by a knife on Van Gogh's body in 2004. The fanatical Muslim who murdered Van Gogh was angry over a short film Van Gogh had made from Hirsi Ali's script. The film, titled [Submission](#), depicted naked women praying to Allah for relief from the abuses they suffer under Sharia (Islamic) law.

Since 2004 Holland has been paying for security for the writer who is a Dutch citizen. But now Dutch officials want to stop sponsoring her protection.

Read more in an editorial by the Washington Post's Anne Applebaum at the link below.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/2lccuk>

3. Durban Considers Legalizing Prostitution

"Durban sex workers have urged the authorities not to legalise prostitution in the lead up to the 2010 World Cup Soccer tournament in South Africa."

"Making their feelings known to The Daily News this week, a group of women earning their living through sex work claimed that National Police commissioner Jackie Selebi "has got it all wrong"."

From IOL News South Africa

Read why sex workers in South Africa vehemently oppose

legalization of prostitution by clicking the link below.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/yq896f>

4. Top 10 College Women @ Glamour

"Every year since 1957, Glamour's Top 10 College Women Competition has saluted the most outstanding young female leaders on America's campuses. Individually, our winners have gone on to achieve remarkable success—anyone heard of Martha Stewart?—and collectively, they represent women's explosion into every field imaginable. Join us in celebrating a half century of world-changers, including 10 brand-new dynamos."

From Glamour's web site

Go read about these amazing young women ASAP. They have notable projects in progress! Click the link below . . . now.

Link: <http://www.glamour.com/news/top10collegewomen>

5. October Site of the Month

Emerge has a mission to facilitate avenues for economic empowerment to at-risk teen-age girls in Sri Lanka. **Emerge** sponsors income-generating projects by teaching teen-aged women to make jewelry so that they may support themselves and their children who are the products of rape.

"Emerge supports vulnerable girls by generating money and skills needed to build strong futures," says **Emerge** director Alia Whitney-Johnson. **Emerge** sponsorship provides a girl with her own tools and jewelry-making supplies for a year. A \$200 sponsorship requires 52 completed pieces of jewelry from the recipient, who is expected to finish one piece a week.

None of the documentation on the website makes it clear if the girls surrender the jewelry in return for support, or if they sell it to **Emerge**.

I think this idea *sounds* good. But I'm surprised by the sketchy

details available on the website. Many pages are downright vague. The linked PDFs make things a little more clear but still don't answer all of my questions, like what is a "product agent?" What is a "gift with impact?"

The blog hasn't been updated since April, so I don't get the sense the **Emerge** project is going well. I hope it is a positive force that is still thriving. However, just hearing about it may inspire someone to create a similar project in their neighborhood to help young women. This is why I'm featuring it for October.

Link: <http://www.emergeglobal.org/>

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