

# Street News Service helps street papers around the world

Marless Aldam with the International Network of Street Papers talks content sharing and networking

BY ELEONORA TERRILE  
 STREET NEWS SERVICE

The Red Petals are women. They are teachers, doctors, journalists, NGO workers, educators, cultural mediators, nurses, midwives, volunteers, lawyers... Whatever their job, they all have one thing in common: they work to protect the rights of both children and adults, in Italy and abroad. The "Petal Rossi" is a project aimed at promoting the protection of human rights, dialogue and experience sharing. Maree Aldam, the Network Services Manager of the International Network of

photographs contributed by our external media partners Reuters and Inter Press Service (IPS). Being part of this editorial network also allows them to gain additional exposure of issues and campaigns from their local community and have their voices heard through wider republication throughout their own country and across the world.



Maree Aldam

The Street News Service also aims to challenge public perspectives on poverty and injustice by offering exclusive commentary on important social issues from 37 countries around the world. The service aims to inform and educate public opinion, action and debate on development, social and cultural issues.

P.R.: When was it created?

M.A.: The Street News Service was initially developed and launched by the North American Newspaper Association (NASNA). NASNA and INSP work very closely together – NASNA's 25 member street papers are also members of INSP and the two organizations share the same vision and purpose in supporting and advancing the street paper movement.

P.R.: How much news do you receive every week from the street papers?

M.A.: We receive around 15 articles each week from our papers. Street paper editors select articles which they think will be of interest to their colleagues around the world and the street paper content is also supplemented through our media partnerships with Reuters and Inter Press Service. Reuters donate 2 articles every week and allow us access to their fantastic database of photographs. IPS donate 15 development-related articles each week, in 5

languages.

All articles and pictures are collated each week, into an e-mail newsfeed which is sent out to our members, partners and supporters in three languages. INSP actively works to maintain a bank nearly 60 volunteer translators, many of whom are professional translators and interpreters, to ensure that more members are able to contribute to and benefit from the Street News Service. We currently offer translation services in German, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Norwegian, Polish, Danish, Dutch, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Swedish, Ukrainian, Hungarian and Slovak.

P.R.: Thanks to this service the street papers can get independent information from all over the world. What are the main subjects discussed on the worldwide street papers?

M.A.: Street papers are all different in their capacity, style, size and editorial approach. This adds to the diversity of the Street News Service, bringing rich and colourful news, issues and information from around the world. We see articles as diverse as investigative reports, exclusive interviews, testimonies from street paper vendors, film and book reviews, and features on a variety of topics – from social issues to music.

P.R.: Thanks to the SNS project you hear a lot of stories from marginalized people and you hear about interesting projects to defend their rights. But what is "your recipe" to defend human rights?

M.A.: I think it's important to raise awareness of injustice – whatever form it may take. Knowledge allows people to speak out about human rights; protect marginalised people; and challenge governments and decision makers. The media can and should be a part of this process. I feel lucky to work for an organisation that helps to fight poverty and injustice, but also builds independent media throughout the world. The two go hand in hand.

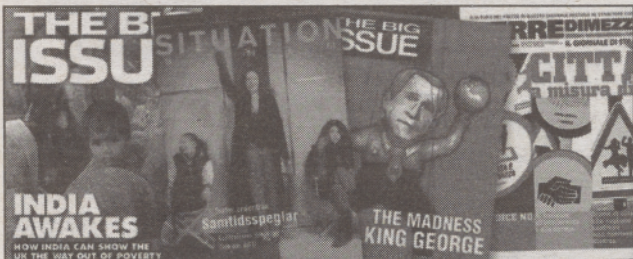
Courtesy of Petali Rossi, Italy © Street News Service: [www.street-papers.org](http://www.street-papers.org)

Street Roots plays a vital role in the development of the North American Street Newspaper Association (NASNA) and the International Network of Street Papers (INSP).

Street Roots Director Israel Bayer is the chair of NASNA's board of directors, while Street Roots Managing Editor Joanne Zuhl is the vice-chair of the INSP board. Both have helped develop the strategic planning and implementation of the organizations, including the Street News Service.

In 2009, Street Roots contributed more than 50 articles that were published in other street papers around the world.

Street Roots often publishes news stories from Seattle, Wash. (Real Change), and Vancouver, B.C. (Megaphone) to show regional trends in housing and homelessness and other issues affecting the Pacific Northwest.



For more information visit [www.nasna.org](http://www.nasna.org) and [www.street-papers.org](http://www.street-papers.org).

Street Papers (INSP), is a recent recipient of the Petali Rossi honor. She has been working for INSP since 2008 and works on many interesting projects, one of which is INSP's news agency – the Street News Service.

Petali Rossi: What is the Street News Service and what is its purpose?

Maree Aldam: The Street News Service plays a crucial role in our work to build a strong independent media movement. It's an alternative online news agency which brings together the best of street paper journalism from around the world. It's a valuable editorial resource for street papers, and it helps to increase their capacity to be diverse, challenging and sustainable independent media in their local communities. The SNS is a web-based forum for street papers to exchange and circulate content. Through the service, street papers can also access news, features and



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If you've ever found yourself in need of social services, you know how confusing it can all be. Long lines, limited hours, seemingly arbitrary eligibility criteria, going from place to place to connect the dots in hopes of getting the help you need.

The Rose City Resource makes it all just a little bit easier. The 100-page booklet records the hours and locations of basic services including shelters, meals, and health clinics, as well as advocacy and long-term solutions such as recovery programs, legal aid, and transitional housing. The guide includes more than 350 listings in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties and is now available in both English and on the Web. Every year, the pocket-size guide helps thousands of individuals and families independently access the services they need.



The Rose City Resource is partially funded through partnerships with the City of Portland and 211 Info. But to keep updating and publishing this all-in-one resource, Street Roots needs community support. The guides are more important than ever. While programs are shifting and shrinking, many people are finding themselves in need of services for the first time. Your support will keep the Rose City Resource in the hands of the people who need them.

[www.rosecityresource.org](http://www.rosecityresource.org)