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\_\_\_\_\_ 2018

Dear Board and Management

Today at school/church we spoke about HIV and AIDS. We heard that 2.1 million children around the world live with HIV and that they all need special combinations of medicines to feel better and protect them from falling ill. We heard that not many children living with HIV get the medicines they need. In 2016, 400 children were newly infected with HIV each day and 300 children died of AIDS-related causes daily.

The teacher explained to us that there are not enough formulations of drugs and testing equipment available for babies, children and adolescents living with HIV. Sometimes children and adolescents living with HIV have to take several pills each day which taste terrible or make them feel bad. Companies like yours are very important. Our teacher said that pharmaceutical companies can do a lot of good. Medicines like penicillin and aspirin have saved many lives and changed the history of the world. Many adults living with HIV have access to good quality treatment. Learning this made me a bit sad and angry. Why isn't more being done for babies and children living with HIV?

I would like your company to do more research and create new formulations of drugs to save more children's lives. We cannot forget children living with HIV just because most of them live in poor countries with few people to speak out for them.

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I look forward to hearing from you about how more children living with HIV can be helped through your work.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Full Name and age)

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\_\_\_\_\_ 2018

Dear Board and Management,

I am writing to ask your organisation to prioritize the need to test all children living with HIV.

More than 120,000 children die each year from AIDS-related causes, and over 13,000 children are newly infected each month. In 2016, only 43 per cent of HIV-exposed infants received an Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) test within the first two months of life. I heard about an HIV-positive mother saying that she is still waiting for the HIV-test result of her 4 year old boy who was tested just few weeks after birth. He looks healthy but she is worried he might be living with HIV.

We could do so much to save the lives of many infants and children by providing early diagnosis and effective treatment to all HIV-infected children.

I am really grateful for the work of, and for the products that your company has produced and placed in the market over the years. I'm writing to ask for your support for your company to take several actions:

First, it is important that you continue to produce the testing machines that can be used close to the children who most need them. Your machines are urgently needed in larger quantities; second, please make sure that the prices of the chemicals needed to use the testing machines are the same for all regions of the country and within my neighbouring countries; third, please will you include the costs of the testing machines together with the costs of everything needed to carry out the tests such as the chemicals and the costs for maintaining the machines; fourth, please will you state clearly the conditions under which the testing machines must be operated so that they continue to perform successfully; and finally please make sure that the testing machines have clear instructions for accurately analysing the test results.

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Thank you for the attention given to my letter.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Full Name and age)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Minister Aaron Motsoaledi

Ministry of Health,

Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001

\_\_\_\_\_ 2018

Dear Minister Motsoaledi,

As you know, there are about 2.1 million children living with HIV around the world but many of these children do not have access to HIV treatment. An infant is infected with HIV somewhere in the world every 3 minutes while 2000 young people become infected with HIV each day.

Our country has signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As part of this, our government promised to do its best to make sure that all children in our country receive health care (article 24). This is not always happening. It is very difficult to find out if a baby has HIV, and many children and adolescents have no access to HIV testing.

Also, there are not enough good combinations of medicines that can be used easily by babies and children. Children and adolescents living with HIV are often discriminated against and are afraid to take their drugs as others might find out that they are positive.

Therefore, I, along with many other young people around the world, am writing to you to ask you to keep the promises you have made to ensure that all children and adolescents living with HIV receive the medicines they need.

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Thank you for all that you are doing already for people living with HIV. We would really appreciate if you could share with us what you are doing to make sure that the 2018 and 2020 treatment targets are reached.

Also, please let me know how I can help you in our country's response to the AIDS epidemic.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Full Name and age)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Minister Nhlanhla Nene

Ministry of Health,

Private Bag X115, Pretoria, 0001

Republic of South Africa.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2018

Dear Minister Nene

In the 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS, adopted by all UN member states, each country has committed to ending the global AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. For this to happen, lots of resources are needed.

I have read that, in recent years, high-income countries have reduced funding for HIV and AIDS, and domestic funding for the HIV response now exceed funds provided by international donors. It seems that countries most affected by HIV must finance their own responses and find more efficient and cost-effective ways to do so. I understand this must be very challenging, but it can also foster ownership and accountability in the implementation of the national HIV response and it can increase sustainability.

When funding becomes scarce, we tend to forget children and their needs. I hope this is not happening in our country. I am really interested to know what is the HIV spending in South Africa's national budget and what is specifically allocated to HIV prevention, testing, treatment care and support for children, adolescents and young people.

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I thank you for all South Africa is doing to eliminate AIDS in children and adolescents and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Full Name and age)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Minister A. Motshekga

Ministry of Basic Education,

Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001

Republic of South Africa.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2018

Dear Minister Motshekga,

Each day there are new HIV infections among infants, adolescents, and young people, in particular girls. These infections show that people either aren't learning enough about HIV, or are unable or unwilling to act on it.

Education is an important component of preventing the transmission of HIV and promoting access to testing and treatment. Being informed about HIV also means that we can eliminate stigma and discrimination towards HIV-positive people and that our teachers and schools know how to support and integrate HIV-positive students.

Education can improve the quality of life of children, adolescents and young people living with HIV and should never be denied. We must learn how the virus is transmitted, but also how it is not transmitted. People need to know that they cannot become infected from sharing food, towels or toilets. This will help to reduce discrimination against positive people by reducing ignorance and fear. And it will help children and adolescents to remain on treatment.

Excellency, I am writing to you today to ask for:

- Age-appropriate HIV education in my school;
- Guidance to teachers about how to support HIV positive students;
- Measures to be put in place so that all children and adolescents, including girls, have access to good quality primary and secondary education; and
- Each school to be encouraged to organize HIV awareness days and events on occasion of World AIDS Day, on 1 December.

We believe that education is the key to an AIDS Free generation. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Full Name)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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First Lady Dr Tshepo Motsepe

Private Bag X1000,Pretoria,0001

\_\_\_\_\_ 2018

Excellency,

I am interested to hear about the work of the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV and AIDS (OAFLA). I know that health care and the principles of Alma Ata are important to you personally and I am sure you can support OAFLA in their work placing children, adolescents and HIV at the core of their mission.

I'd like to know more about the OAFLA activities that are taking place in South Africa and ask if I and my school or church could be of any help to support the cause: like you, I want South Africa to be free from AIDS. I want all South African children and adolescents to have access to age-appropriate HIV information, testing and to the best treatment.

I would like to ask you to speak out against HIV-related stigma and discrimination affecting children, adolescents, and their caregivers at home, in schools, and in the community. This is a big issue in our communities, which creates a lot of problems for people living with HIV.

Please keep encouraging mothers, fathers, families and caregivers of HIV-exposed infants and children to go for testing and know their status. And keep encouraging those who are HIV-positive, to seek counselling, treatment, care and support. Due to fear of stigma and discrimination, parents in our communities are often afraid to bring their babies for an HIV test or families give up on treatment because it is too costly. Further, the age of consent shouldn't be a barrier to testing and treatment for adolescents. In South Africa the age of consent is 16, but we know that younger people are being infected by HIV and need services.

You have the power to influence so many people: it would be great to have you involved in taking action for children and adolescents.

Thank you for the consideration you are giving to my letter and thank you for what you are doing to eliminate stigma and discrimination against children and adolescents living with HIV; and to improve access to prevention, testing and treatment in South Africa.

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Full Name and Age)