



April 11, 2006

The Honorable Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring Street, Room 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Antonio Villaraigosa:

**Los Angeles-based organizations, One Global Tribe, NextAid and PEP-LA have joined forces with Francois-Xavier Bagnoud International, Global Action for Children (GAC), African Regional Youth Initiative (ARYI), Plan USA, non-governmental, international organizations, women's organizations and youth, to mobilize Los Angeles communities, press and elected officials, to support children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS on World AIDS Orphans Day, SUNDAY, MAY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006.**

The activities of the newly formed coalition, May 7 Coalition ([www.7May.org](http://www.7May.org)), include child-led forums, organizing "circle of friends" across the U.S. and Africa, rallies, drama presentations, lobbying with mayors and governments officials, town hall meetings, hosting a gala with international dignitaries in major cities, developing interactive website and media tools, and conducting radio and television campaigns.

We kindly request that the mayor join 217 elected representatives from 185 cities in signing the attached proclamation, urging worldwide leadership to meet the following goals:

- Mobilize all the necessary resources to reach the objectives set out in the 2001 United Nations Declarations of Commitments on HIV/AIDS, and
- To urgently grant the special assistance needed by orphans and all children made vulnerable by AIDS.

The proclamation is available online at the May 7, FXB International and World AIDS Orphans Day web sites. The direct link is: <http://www.worldorphansday.org/en/index.php?link=why&sub1=political>

Signed proclamations must be sent to:

FXB USA  
150 East 52nd Street  
9th Floor  
New York 10022, USA

Or faxed to: 212 697 2065

We urge the City of Los Angeles to recognize this funding is urgent and critical to the survival of millions of children who have lost parents to HIV/AIDS, as well as other poor and vulnerable children whose parents are sick and dying.

The United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-25) requires that 10 percent of overall global HIV/AIDS funding is expended for orphans and vulnerable children programming. We the undersigned organizations wish to highlight the FY 2007 obligation to fund programs which assist orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), as per Section 403(b) of the law that establishes this earmark:

Orphans and Vulnerable Children — For fiscal years 2006 through 2008, not less than 10 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under section 401 for HIV/AIDS assistance for each such fiscal year shall be expended for assistance for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, of which such amount at least 50 percent shall be provided through non-profit, nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based organizations, that implement programs on the community level.

According to the joint USAID, UNICEF, and UNAIDS report, Children on the Brink, there are more than 143 million orphans around the globe. Approximately 15 million of these children have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS and another child is orphaned by HIV/AIDS every 14 seconds. Addressing the needs of orphans and other children made vulnerable by armed conflict, forced labor, physical and sexual abuse, disease, malnutrition and poverty is not only a key component of the U.S. strategy to fight HIV/AIDS, it is also essential to ensuring that generations of children around the world have the opportunity to grow up healthy and contribute to their communities and nations.

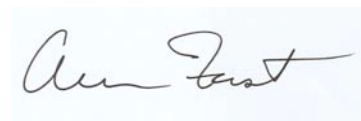
**Children and youth are part of the global solution for the AIDS orphans crisis, because it is with those children that they will share their future.**

We are grateful to the Mayor for considering our proposal and look forward to recognizing his support publicly and before the press, on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Additional information is attached about World AIDS Orphans Day and our activities here in Los Angeles.

We hope to collaborate more closely with the City of Los Angeles on future WAOD events, and are pleased to speak with any of the Mayor's staff regarding the objectives outlined in this letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Fast", is written on a light blue rectangular background.

Alison Fast  
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One Global Tribe  
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[www.OneGlobalTribe.org](http://www.OneGlobalTribe.org)

c.c.

African Faith and Justice Network  
American Jewish World Service  
American Medical Students Association  
African Regional Youth Initiative (ARYI)  
CARE  
Christ's Hope International  
Christian Children's Fund  
Church Women United  
Church World Service  
Elizabeth Glazer Pediatric AIDS Foundation  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Washington Office  
FXB International  
Global Action for Children  
Global AIDS Alliance  
Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS  
Hope for Africa International, Zambia  
Hope for African Children Initiative  
Keep A Child Alive  
Kenya AIDS Intervention Prevention Project Group, International  
Mothers Acting Up  
NextAIDS  
OVC Task Force  
Pact Inc  
PEP-LA  
Plan USA  
Save the Children, USA  
Student Campaign for Child Survival  
Student Global AIDS Campaign  
Ukimwi Orphans Assistance  
United Methodist General Board of Church and Society  
U.S. Fund for UNICEF  
RESULTS  
Women Empowerment Literacy and Development Organization (WELDO)  
World Camps  
World Vision



## ***Proclamation***

**WHEREAS:** the AIDS pandemic is relentlessly gaining ground, leaving millions of victims in its wake and orphaning a new child every 15 seconds;

**WHEREAS:** children who have been orphaned or rendered vulnerable by AIDS are among the most fragile children of the planet;

**WHEREAS:** the AIDS orphans' crisis is a humanitarian, economic, social and security challenge that our global society must urgently address – there are already more than 15 million AIDS orphans in the world;

**WHEREAS:** only a large-scale and sustainable political effort can halt this crisis;

**WHEREAS:** World AIDS Orphans Day contributes to raising public awareness about the plight of these children, whose numbers constantly increase;

**WHEREAS:** the mayors, guarantors of the Rights of the Child in their respective municipalities, can commit their towns to respecting the rights of the most vulnerable children;

**WHEREAS:** the moral support given by towns can contribute to influencing governments into taking immediate measures for the protection and global caretaking of AIDS orphans, while respecting and implementing the applicable international rights.

**THEREFORE:** I, \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim

### ***May 7 - World AIDS Orphans Day***

For this purpose, I invite all of the inhabitants as well as the media to support this world solidarity coalition initiated by FXB.

*[Municipality Seal]*

*[Mayor's Signature]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*[Mayor's full name]*