

Youth Declaration on Children and AIDS
A better future for every child; we will work together.

by UNICEF Children's Network
Tokyo, Japan
3 August 2006

AIDS is no longer a problem for the grown-ups only.

Children, even ourselves (i.e. children in Japan), are equally threatened and affected by HIV/AIDS. In the world today:

- Every minute, one child dies of AIDS-related illness
- Every 15 seconds, one child under 15 gets infected with HIV
- There are 15 million children who have lost either one or both parents to AIDS
- Only one out of six patients requiring anti-HIV/AIDS treatment can receive the medication
- Misconceptions and prejudice associated with HIV/AIDS make the situation much worse
- There is a critical shortage of hospitals and doctors in the developing countries

We therefore appeal to the grown-ups:

- To learn about HIV/AIDS properly in order to protect us from the threats of this disease
- To give us more opportunities at school and in communities to learn about HIV/AIDS in order to fight against the stigma
- To give more financial assistance to the developing countries: they need more hospitals and doctors
- To donate more to help children fight against AIDS
- We appeal to the media to report more stories on children and AIDS

And we the children ourselves hereby promise that we will take the following actions:

- We will join in the activities already taking place in our own communities in order to fight against prejudice and help create an environment where one can talk freely about HIV/AIDS
- We will share factual information on children and AIDS with our friends and families in order to raise awareness
- We will discuss the issues relating to children and AIDS in our classrooms to help develop better understanding
- We will become “mentors” on children and AIDS at our schools using tools such as posters, on-campus TV/cable-radio programmes, etc., and organizing events to help our friends learn more about children and AIDS
- We will unite ourselves against AIDS