

DECLARATION

DECLARATION OF YOUNG DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED THE OVC PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ON 30th JUNE– 2ND JULY 2006 AT ACHTERBERGH CAMP SITE, KRUGERSDORP.

As a result of the deliberations during the workshop, the following issues were a highlight of concerns raised, and against this background an agreement was reached, whereby delegates committed to the following:

- To raise community and family awareness regarding issues affecting OVC
- To advocate for access to bursaries thereby enhancing career opportunities
- To set good examples to other children
- To promote sports and arts to be used as a tool to communicate with the youth
- To promote youth talent
- To motivate other orphans to improve their circumstances
- To introduce youth clubs
- To get tested for HIV/AIDS and ensure a healthy lifestyle
- To seek relevant information on issues affecting the youth
- To work hand in hand with police to maximise service delivery, i.e. child protection and prevention of crime
- To encourage entrepreneurship as a means to job creation
- To hold community dialogues to solicit children's views
- To establish support groups for orphans within their communities
- To promote self awareness in order to minimize peer pressure
- To associate ourselves with people who have good influence
- To mobilize communities to support OVC

This is our call to government and other service providers:

- To ensure that care-givers educate and motivate families affected by HIV/AIDS during their visits
- To educate people and raise awareness to the fact that ARVs are a treatment and not a cure
- To make information available in twelve official languages
- To provide skills development programs for out-of-school youth
- To educate teachers on issues of confidentiality especially regarding issues affecting OVC
- To establish youth forums to advocate for young people's needs
- To make information available regarding services accessible to communities, e.g. Umsobomvu Youth Fund
- The child care workers must monitor the administering of grants for children under 18 years of age - age restriction for grant applications must be lowered to 16 years.
- Government must treat the process of grant applications for OVC as a priority
- Government must provide necessary support to community development projects
- Government in partnership with relevant service providers must offer skills development programs for youth in conflict with the law

- Job placements for youth with necessary skills/qualifications must be a priority for both the government and business sector
- Government to impose stricter measures regarding bail applications
- Government must provide houses and renovate old structures for OVC
- Government must provide adequate training for care givers and sufficient remuneration
- Government must introduce measures to protect estates for orphans
- Government must provide free services such as rent, electricity, water, etc. to poor families
- Children's homes must extend age restriction for admission of children from 18 to 20 years of age.
- Government must educate and raise awareness around issues of criminal acts such as child trafficking
- Social workers must pay unexpected visits to OVC foster homes
- Civil servants, organizations and individuals working in the children's sector must adopt the 'Batho Pele' approach to service delivery
- Parents, teachers and child minders must be trained on first aid
- The government must make information on foster care grants accessible and educate communities on what processes and procedures need to be followed to access them
- Government must review age restrictions for children heading households to qualify for RDP houses from age 16.
- Government must have clear communication strategy to school principals regarding school fees exemption for OVC
- Government must scrap the birth certificate application fee to enable poor families to apply for birth certificates without unnecessary delays
- In cases whereby parents of a child were never married, government officials should not make the fathers ID a conditional requirement if his whereabouts are not known