



United Nations Children's Fund  
Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance  
Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia

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# Information

## **STATEMENT BY MISS ADDIS ABABA, TSEDEY TSEGAYE THE ETHIOPIAN TEENAGER'S FORUM**

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Invited Guests and students who have come from different schools, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for this opportunity to speak to you today on the subject of HIV/AIDS which is spreading in our world at an alarming rate.

Adolescence is the age when the foundation for a successful future is set. Taking this into consideration, all young people should work hard in school and also take on the responsibility to respond to the problems that affect society. In particular we should pay special attention to HIV/AIDS which is spreading within our communities with great speed. We should be able to overcome this problem without letting beauty trick us and become stumbling blocks. We have to change the way we consider beauty. In order to succeed and achieve our individual goals we need to be strong inside. We need to develop our willingness to reach out and be there for people when they are in need. Furthermore, each one of us has a unique gift that has been given to us. Some of us may like to clean our environment. Others may have a gift for teaching others. Some of us may be able to relieve others of their pain and frustration by sharing our thoughts and offering our advice. These are the things that must be our measure of what we consider to be beautiful. People who do these things and things like this, these are the beautiful children of humankind.

We young people must not stray from those blessed actions that render us beautiful. We must also be with our brothers and sister who have contracted HIV/AIDS, we must go to them and laugh with them, play with them, talk with them, share our thoughts and eat and drink with them.

A great deal of behavioural change is needed in our society. Therefore, whenever we are with our friends, during our play or study times, we should take a few minutes to share those things that we have heard and learnt about HIV/AIDS.

Thank you very much

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