Dear Friends:

In past years, I have urged you to vote for the candidates nominated by Harvard-Radcliffe Alumni/ae Against Apartheid for the Harvard Board of Overseers. You have responded by electing Gay Seidman, Consuela Washington, and Peter Wood, all of whom have made splendid efforts to lead Harvard toward a more socially responsible investment policy. Thanks in part to their presence on the Board, Harvard has taken the first steps toward divesting itself of shares in companies doing business in apartheid South Africa.

But the job is not finished, either in South Africa, or at Harvard. Gay, Consuela, and Peter need colleagues who will forge with them a fellowship of moral commitment on the Board, uniting with the other Overseers who wish to place Harvard squarely behind the struggle for a democratic, non-racial South Africa. That is why, this year, I am joining hands with Linda Davidoff, Ephraim Isaac, Clara Lopez Obregon, and Robert Zevin to run as a HRAAA candidate for the Board of Overseers.

We need your vote if we are to succeed in winning seats on the Board. And HRAAA needs your financial support if it is to carry on the valuable work of the past three years. Please be sure to open your Harvard ballot when it arrives, and to vote for all five of us. Be sure, as well, to contact Harvard friends and urge them to vote. Together, we shall take one more step toward that splendid day when South Africans of all races and colors can fulfill the promise of my beautiful, and troubled, land.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, LLD (Hon) '79
"When we get to the other side of this liberation game, we would like to say, 'You know something, Harvard University was with us.'"

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Kennedy School of Government
January 11, 1986
"What Harvard needs most from its diverse and progressive graduates is active participation. Together we can make our impressive University a more responsive and open institution."

— Peter Wood, AB ’64, PhD ’72
Professor of History, Duke University
Harvard Board of Overseers

Harvard and Radcliffe Alumni/ae Against Apartheid is an organization of graduates of all schools of Harvard University who have joined together to persuade Harvard to divest itself of investments in companies doing business in South Africa. Since our founding in 1986 we have elected three pro-divestment alumni/ae to Harvard’s Board of Overseers for six-year terms.

"As Harvard graduates, we have a special responsibility and a special opportunity to end the University’s investments in South Africa. It’s the least we can do for those who endure daily the injustices of apartheid."

— Susan Dynarski, ’86

Alumni/ae of all ages, races and ethnicities from every part of the world have joined HRAAA. We invite you to join us. Your membership will strengthen our organization and give you a voice in its future.

Harvard University still maintains over $200 million in South African related investments. President Bok and the Harvard Corporation have turned deaf ears to all those South Africans who have called on the University to divest: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, the United Democratic Front, the South African Council of Churches, and the majority of South African blacks. By ignoring these calls, the University has also failed to follow the example of the many US colleges and universities that have already divested.

HRAAA is broadening and deepening its commitment to a morally and socially responsible Harvard. The time has come for a reexamination of Harvard’s relationship with women and minorities in its faculty and

HRAAA’s three Overseers have brought the issue of divestment to the Board for the first time in the eighteen-year history of the Harvard University anti-apartheid movement.

HRAAA organized HarvAid: Songs for a Free South Africa, a gala folk music concert which benefited HRAAA and the Fund for a Free South Africa.

HRAAA continues to oppose apartheid through its educational and activist efforts, and through its work with a coalition of student and community organizations.