

# ARTISTS FOR A NEW SOUTH AFRICA



March 31, 2004

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This year, Artists for a New South Africa (ANSA) celebrates our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and South Africa commemorates 10 years of freedom. When we were founded in 1989, Nelson Mandela was in prison in South Africa. Apartheid was the law of the land. A different George Bush was in the White House, calling for an end to sanctions against South Africa, despite the fact that black people still did not have the right to vote. AIDS was devastating America's gay community, yet had barely reached South Africa.

The world today is quite a different place than it was back then. We've won major battles, but new crises have emerged:

- South Africa is now a democracy with the world's most inclusive Bill of Rights, but it is also the epicenter of the global AIDS pandemic. We believe the South African people, who so recently overcame Apartheid, have the capacity and tenacity to meet this immense challenge of AIDS. The battle is at a critical crossroads, and ANSA has intensified its efforts, but we will only win this fight if all of us take action.
- Here in America, although lifesaving medicines have made AIDS a chronic condition rather than a death sentence for most people, African Americans and Latinos now account for 70% of all new infections, which often go undetected. Many of our cherished freedoms are also under attack and ANSA needs your help to ensure that people of color will not be turned away from voting booths, like they were in Florida in 2000.

ANSA is a small, yet highly effective, organization. Our original purpose was to support South Africa's quest for freedom. Now, we work strategically on urgent issues in South Africa and in America. We don't reinvent the wheel. Instead, we work in partnership with leaders and activists on the frontlines, putting our resources behind grassroots movements to substantially increase their impact. Since 1995, we've raised over \$8 million for pivotal South African organizations and shipped 60 tons of medical supplies and books to poor communities. Through public events and media campaigns, we've helped educate millions of people in the U.S. and South Africa about AIDS and voting rights.

In order to maintain our independence and the freedom to work against injustice, ANSA does not accept government funding. We're deeply grateful to you, and to our other outstanding donors and volunteers, for your support and involvement. **You make a very real difference in ANSA's ability to respond to South Africa's AIDS crisis and to protect America's embattled civil rights.**



**Over five million people in South Africa are living with HIV/AIDS, more than in any other country. Every day, 600 people die of AIDS in South Africa and 1,600 become infected with HIV. Already, 660,000 South African children have been orphaned by the disease. Unless drastic action is taken now, by 2010 there will be 100 million people around the globe with HIV/AIDS and over 40 million children orphaned by the disease.** How South Africa deals with its AIDS crisis sets an important precedent for developing nations throughout the world.

The current President Bush publicly promised \$15 billion over 5 years to combat AIDS, TB and other diseases worldwide. However, behind the scenes, the President has urged Congress to fulfill only part of his pledge. ANSA continues to advocate and mobilize for humane government policies on AIDS, globally and domestically.

**The past few months have brought momentous breakthroughs in ANSA's AIDS work and in South Africa's fight against this catastrophic pandemic:**

- For years, the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) has led the call for lifesaving medicines for all who need them, joined by local and international activists, including ANSA. The South African government has developed a comprehensive plan to begin to provide AIDS treatment and the first medications have been delivered. However, it will take years before they will be able to reach everyone in need. We are working to save the lives that would be lost in the interim.
- Our South African allies just succeeded in getting two major international pharmaceutical companies to allow their AIDS medicines to be manufactured generically in South Africa, which will result in drastic price reductions of up to 90%. The Clinton Foundation recently arranged for generic drug manufacturers to offer AIDS medicines at greatly reduced prices to some developing nations, including South Africa.
- TAC and its co-founder Zackie Achmat have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. This announcement came just days after Zackie completed his first visit to California. ANSA was honored to organize his West Coast tour, raise funds and provide a matching grant for every dollar raised. The U.S. trip netted more than \$675,000 for TAC and its new Treatment Program, and garnered major media coverage and raised public awareness about the AIDS crisis in South Africa.

**We want to tell you more about some of the exciting work we're doing and invite you to become further involved:**

- **ANSA's Amandla AIDS Fund** provides financial support to effective South African efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. ANSA launched the fund with a \$2.5 million dollar gift from Carlos and Deborah Santana, who donated the entire net proceeds of the 2003 U.S. Santana concert tour. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, activist Zackie Achmat, and a group of other leading South African activists, doctors, lawyers, academics and policymakers are working closely with ANSA to ensure that the dollars granted have maximum impact. Our grants are saving lives, providing help to orphaned children, and catalyzing social change.
- **AID to South African People (ASAP)** is a coalition, founded and coordinated by ANSA, of U.S. non-profits working together to send high-quality medical supplies to South African health clinics, hospitals and AIDS hospices. For less than \$20,000, ASAP can send over 20 tons of essential medical equipment, with an average value of \$250,000, to regions in desperate need.
- **Voices from the Frontlines** is a traveling cultural event, created and produced by ANSA, which educates and mobilizes the American public on the AIDS pandemic. *Voices* helps humanize

overwhelming statistics by using the intimate forum of theater to portray first-person accounts of South Africans and Americans living with HIV/AIDS and those taking significant action to combat it. *Voices* brings information about HIV prevention to our own communities, and gives audience members ways to get actively involved locally and internationally. ANSA presents this successful event in cities and on college campuses across the U.S.

- **The Election Protection Program (EPP)** is a non-partisan effort by U.S. civil rights and voter education groups, including People for the American Way Foundation, the NAACP Voter Empowerment Program and ANSA, working to safeguard voters' rights and increase electoral participation in communities of color. EPP educates voters, provides volunteers to help voters exercise their rights, and offers free and immediate legal assistance to people who are prevented from voting at the polls. For the 2004 elections, ANSA will produce a national media campaign to increase registration and voter turn-out and to advise voters of their legal rights.

Your generosity at this time would be especially meaningful. Daily, we have to turn down worthy requests for urgent assistance due to our limited funding and staff size. **HELP US SAY YES! Please make a financial contribution and be as generous as you can.** We also invite you to get involved in other ways. Host a house party or company meeting to introduce your friends and colleagues to ANSA. Contribute your professional skills. Donate your time, frequent flyer miles or supplies such as office equipment or children's books. Please feel free to contact us at (310) 204-1748 with any questions or to discuss your ideas of how you can work with us to make a difference.

On our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Nelson Mandela said, "*We are strengthened by the knowledge that Artists for a New South Africa will be with us.*" **Please help us have an even greater impact in the years to come. Thank you for being a vital part of ANSA.**

With gratitude,

Gillian Anderson

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