Call to Action

The situation of people living and dying with AIDS in parts of Africa is so desperate that even the most basic help will bring solace and hope.

We know how to defeat this pandemic. We have all the knowledge we need. But to do it, there must be a quantum leap in financial resources.

 Stephen Lewis, Secretary General's Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa, as cited on the Stephen Lewis Foundation website: http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/index.html





We have reached a point in human history where it is now obvious that poverty and ignorance threaten human security as surely as any weapon of mass destruction.

There are those who argue that poverty and its discontents have always been with us and always will be. Yet today, the persistence and global scale of poverty – and the grotesque inequality that underlies it – is widely recognized not only as a moral outrage, but a growing threat to world peace and stability...

In a global economy worth well over \$30 trillion, nearly 3 billion people – almost half of humanity – live on less than \$2 a day. And 1.3 billion of them exist at the very margins of human dignity, making do with less than \$1 a day.

Elizabeth Gibbons, UNICEF, Speech about child poverty, 21 October 2003:
 http://www.unicef.org/media/media_15094.html

Call to Action

In providing superb leadership at the head of his small force of UN peacekeepers, he [General Romeo Dallaire] was placed in the position of having to witness horrendous barbarity without the capacity or authority to intervene...

General Dallaire portrays for us what Dr. Prince observed in a 1931 paper: "... our catastrophes teach us that we break loose from ancient and profitable customs of injustice and rise from our featherbeds of ignorance only by stern and unpleasant means."

- From the citation of General Romeo Dallaire for the Dr. Samuel Henry Prince Humanitarian Award: http://www.ctsn-rcst.ca/dallaire.htm

Note: General Dallaire is the former head of Canada's Peacekeeping Force; he was assigned to Rwanda in Africa during a time of war between ethnic groups and government change in that country. General Dallaire pleaded with the UN to send additional forces to try to prevent the massacre that occurred in Rwanda in 1994, but he never received the requested assistance.

Canadian Profiles, General Romeo Dallaire: http://www.canadians.ca/more/profiles/d/d_romeo_dallaire.htm

