

## The 2006 US/Uganda Youth Alliance Action Statement

We, the Ugandan, American and Canadian participants of the inaugural **Global Kimeeza: US/Uganda Youth Summit**, do affirm our moral responsibility in ending the extreme human suffering created and deepened by the conflict in Northern Uganda, a place where over twenty thousand children have been kidnapped, ninety percent of the population has been displaced, and eighty percent of the combatants are youth and children.

We, the fifty participants in this eight-day Summit, have come from 20 different universities and cities in the United States, one university in Canada, and 10 universities and districts in Uganda. We come from a wide range of cultural, religious and spiritual backgrounds, yet we all acknowledge that the suffering in Northern Uganda is unacceptable to the human community.

Further, through a process of democratic deliberation in breakout groups focusing on *HIV/AIDS*, *Women and Gender*, and *Peace and Conflict Resolution*, we have recognized as youth, that there is a local, national and international responsibility to affect the following change. Together, with support from Global Youth Partnership for Africa (GYPA), we will take the following five action steps:

1. Create a strong network within Uganda, with support from the United States, to sustain and broaden the GYPA Gomo Tong project. This project will address the specific need for social and psychological programs to reintegrate former child soldiers into their communities through sports, recreation, and education.
2. Collaborate with friends of Uganda in the United States, including opinion leaders; policy makers; professionals in the field; and public and private educational institutions, to support effective programs for peace and reconciliation in Northern Uganda.
3. Strengthen the lobbying efforts, directed towards the Government of Uganda and Ugandan civil society organizations, including the Northern Uganda Peace Initiative (NUPI), to reach both a final and lasting peace, as well as a coherent and consistent policy for justice in Northern Uganda.
4. Support women as integral actors for peace and reintegration, while working towards equity for women in all spheres of society including, but not limited to, household responsibilities, access to education, economic opportunities, political and social forums, and family planning options.
5. Narrow the broad gap of HIV/AIDS infection rates in Northern Uganda compared with other regions of Uganda through supporting increased access to a comprehensive treatment, education and prevention program.

We recognize that this collaboration is a living document, and we will take further steps to adapt our efforts based on changing needs, experience and expertise.

On this day, Tuesday, the tenth of January 2006, in Livingstone Hall at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, we the students of the Inaugural Global Kimeeza: US/Uganda Youth Summit, do hereby pledge to take part in the above actions.

