



AAA e-NEWS BRIEF –FEBRUARY 2014.

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY -2014:AN AFRICAN GIRL TOOK HOMEANOSCAR!

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Please send a tax-exempt check payable to one of African Action on AIDS' addresses below

Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/SAC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

"JUST KNOW" Campaign emphasizes:

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

"Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands (hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti wormsmedicin

"Women's economic autonomy" through our

Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

The African Action on AIDS Mission Statement begins as follows: "We believe that **No One is Alone. We succeed when the youth we serve become agents of their own change and use their knowledge to change their communities**". With the build up around post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, AAA added the following: "**African Girls are agents of change not objects of AID**"The following declaration of LUPITA NYONG'O after winning an Oscar re-enforces our faith in African Girls. She said: "Thank you to the Academy for this incredible recognition. It doesn't escape me for one moment that so much joy in my life is thanks to so much pain in someone else's. And so I want to salute the spirit of Patsy for her guidance. And for Solomon, thank you for telling her story and your own... "**When I look down at this golden statue, may it remind me and every little child that no matter where you're from, your dreams are valid.**"

The film story:

12 Years a Slave is based on Solomon Northup's autobiography of the same name, published in 1853. Set eight years before the start of the Civil War, when there were 13 slave states and 13 free states in America, it tells the story of how Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, is kidnapped into slavery in the Deep South

Who is Lupita?

Nyong'o was born in Mexico (she is the 2nd of 6 children; the youngest is 19, the oldest 33) where her father, the Kenyan politician Peter Anyang' Nyong'o was a visiting lecturer in political science, and the family moved back home to Kenya a year later. Lupitalived a very middle-class life in the quiet suburbs and gated communities of Nairobi. "I loved make-believe," she says. "I was the child in the cupboard playing with my Barbies." When she was eight or nine she watched *The Color Purple*, the film adaptation of Alice Walker's novel. "It was first time I'd seen someone like me on screen," Nyong'o says. "Whoopi Goldberg had my kind of hair and was dark like me. I thought, maybe I could do this for

a living." At age 19, Nyong'o chose to pursue filmmaking, and applied to Hampshire College, Massachusetts, to read film and theatre studies. 'I wanted to be an actor but I wasn't ready to admit it yet,' she explains, 'so my plan B was filmmaking and that felt more acceptable [than acting] for people in my community.' She was offered her first acting job just before she moved back to the States to enrol on the three-year Master of Fine Arts course at Yale School of Drama

To all our readers, we like to draw a careful attention on the advice of Ralph Fiennes in 2004 "**Lupita, only act if you can't breathe without it.**" "**She considered this advice "sage", she says, because "acting is so unpredictable"...**



LUPITA NYONG'O, a Kenyan girl who grew up in Nairobi.

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