



STAND UP FOR AFRICA

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

Issue one | February 2005



Welcome

Welcome to Stand Up For Africa's very first issue of our newsletter. It's packed with news, stories, and pictures from our first year, as well

as thoughts about our work in 2005 and beyond. I hope you enjoy reading about our activities – as always, please get in touch if you have any ideas or opinions you'd like to share with SUFA.

2005 is going to be a big year for all of us who love Africa. It's a year that some of us have been waiting for, for a very long time. Africa is, at last, on the global agenda. In July, the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, with his Commission for Africa (CFA), will present a report to the group of the most powerful nations on earth, commonly known as the G8.

As I understand it, this is the first time Africa appears at the top of the G8 agenda. But what difference could this make to an eight-year-old African child forced to break stones in a village quarry for 14 hours every day? His family's cotton, the villagers' principal cash crop, cannot compete on the world market with subsidised American cotton prices. So he works in the quarry to help his family earn enough money for food and daily necessities. Because he has to work, he can't go to school. So when he grows up he won't be able to make a better living that will pay for his own children's education. And so the cycle of poverty and suffering continues.

In 2005, the G8 leaders could change this child's life – and the life of Africa – forever. But will they?

2005 is our opportunity to do something about the poverty and suffering in Africa. Please, join with Stand Up For Africa and raise your voice to convince the G8 leaders to make change happen. Support Africa with your passion, your money, your time, and your energy. 2005 is Africa's year. Join us!

Elsie Nemlin

AT NO. 10 WITH THE BLAIRS



▲ Elsie Nemlin discusses SUFA's child slavery project with Mother and Child Rights lawyer, Cherie Blair; and with PM Tony Blair ►



On 11 October 2004, Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie held a reception for Africans in the Diaspora at 10 Downing Street, their official residence. Representatives of Stand Up For Africa were invited to attend.

For some of us, this evening will remain in our memories forever. Not only has Mr Blair put Africa at the top of his agenda for 2005, but he has also publicly acknowledged and paid tribute to the role played by Africans in Britain. And SUFA was part of it.

During the evening, hundreds of guests from various African communities were able to meet and exchange ideas with the Prime Minister, Mrs Blair, and several government ministers and officials.

Following the formation of the Commission for Africa (CFA), most observers agree that this evening was another sign of a personal commitment by the Prime Minister to support our continent in changing for the better. This is something that can only be welcomed.

We see this as a commitment to a partnership with African communities, and only as a partnership can it succeed.

Joseph Ochieno

Highlights of SUFA's first year...

26 Daily Express Monday May 31 2004

Rescuing child slaves of Africa

DAILY EXPRESS
CHARITY
CHAMPION

THE office in a business enterprise unit is a world away from the glamorous setting of a fashion shoot but it's here that Elsie Nemlin works seven days a week in her bid to push for an end to a plight thousands of miles away - but close to her heart.

Elsie, originally from the Ivory Coast, once worked as a model but is now dedicated to establishing a charity that will help wipe out Africa's child slave trade.

In August last year, she founded Stand Up For Africa because she felt that not enough was being done to stop children being taken from their parents at an early age and then put to work, often in dreadful conditions.

"I want to do an event about the Fair Trade campaign and I realised there weren't many representatives from Africa tackling the issues about Africa," she explains.

"That's where people are suffering, particularly children, but nothing was being done about it."

Elsie, 34, has lived in this country for 10 years and previously worked with Oxfam.

Nations in the west of Africa are thought to be especially hard hit by the practice of child trafficking. Children as young as eight are taken to other countries to work as domestic servants, market workers and labourers in mines, factories and on farms.

Some are forced on to the streets to beg, or become involved in drug trafficking, pornography or prostitution.

According to a report from the west African state of Benin, around 490,000 children are part of the child slave practice in that country alone. In September last

year, 116 children from Benin were rescued from quarries in south western Nigeria. Three died before they could be taken home.

But reformers face a big task. Jedo Giza, 15, was returned to Benin from the Nigerian quarry "back home in Benin there was hardly anything to eat and no money to do," he explains.

"After five years working in Nigeria I had gained the trust of my boss and was earning enough to save some money. I'll have the chance, I will return to the quarry."

Elsie runs the charity from a business unit in Battersea, London. "The states of Benin, Togo and Ghana are badly affected," she says. "The root of the problem is the dire poverty. When you don't have enough resources it's OK to send your child away to another family or another person. The thinking behind it is that the child will be

fed, get an education and a job. But traffickers take advantage. They often promise to send money back to the family from the child's wages. Parents are duped into agreeing because they cannot offer the child anything themselves. But the traffickers hand over some money, take the child and then no more is heard about them and no more money is ever sent. The families are too poor to do anything about it."

Elsie hopes to raise enough money to carry out a feasibility study in Benin. In the long term she hopes to address the poverty by raising money to set up small businesses so families won't feel forced to send their youngsters away. Child sponsorship and loans will also be established.

"Many children's futures have already been jeopardised by this trade," says Elsie, "and more children are under threat unless more is done today to prevent it."

CRUSADE:
Elsie says
families are
often duped
into handing
over their
children to
slave
traffickers



For more information or to donate to Stand Up For Africa, write to: Stand Up For Africa, PO Box 46815, London SW11 5SP. Make

cheques payable to Stand Up For Africa. ONLINE: www.standupforafrica.org.uk E-MAIL: info@standupforafrica.org.uk (no phone facility for credit card donations)

Do you know a charity that deserves to be featured by Charity Champion? Write to us at CHARITY CHAMPION, Daily Express, Ludgate House, 245 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 9UX, or e-mail charitychampion@express.co.uk

▲ Daily Express, 31 May 2004



▲ SUFA's first 'ladies only' night out, November 2004

Fighting for an end to child slavery in Africa



Beauty cares: Former model Elsie Nemlin's Stand Up For Africa charity is working to abolish child slavery in the continent.

A cramped office in a Battersea business unit is about as far from the full horror of child slavery in west Africa as it is possible to get. But this is the home of Stand Up For Africa (SUFA), a charity campaigning for the abolition of the vile trade which sees hundreds of thousands of children oppressed and exploited in Benin and Ghana.

Former model and Oxfam fundraiser Elsie Nemlin, 38, originally from the Ivory Coast, set up SUFA last August because she was so frustrated at charities and non-governmental organisations failing to address the child slavery issue.

"The figures are simply astonishing. In Benin, around 680,000 children work in slavery or are taken to other countries to do manual labour, work as domestic servants and even forced into prostitution and drug trafficking."

But Elsie says the key to solving the crisis is to change the underlying cultural and financial situation in countries in west Africa, which means parents allow their children to be taken by slavery gangs.

She said: "There are so many charities working there, but the problem is still getting worse. It means more help is still needed and we in the west need to do more."

"People [in west Africa] don't really think it is so dire. It is justified by people being poor and all they think is it is another way to help the children instead of having your children sitting with you

by Charles Heymann

not having anything to give them."

She welcomes Tony Blair's Africa Commission to address the continent's crisis and description of Africa as a "scar on the conscience of the world".

She argues, however, that the solution has to come from Africans themselves.

As SUFA's slogan runs, "Just imagine the effect on a global level if all who love Africa tried to live up to that ideal."

Elsie's plans are rather less grand at this stage. She wants to go on a fact-finding trip to Benin and Ghana to see first-hand the

conditions of the children. She also wants to set up small businesses, children sponsorship and loans schemes so families will not send away their children.

But despite winning a £4,540 grant last year which helped her set up the charity and making good contacts within Benin's government, the task has been hard with only two student volunteers.

She said: "I want to appeal to people who love Africa, who want to give up their time and financially help the charity."

"Someone needs to go out there and stand up for Africa."

For more information, or to make a donation, write to Stand Up For Africa, PO Box 4615, SW11 5SP, send an email to info@standupforafrica.org.uk or visit www.standupforafrica.org.uk

cheymann@london.newsquest.co.uk

Call on all Nations to STAND UP FOR AFRICA

Elsie Nemlin, originally from the Ivory Coast, once enjoyed a career in modelling until she became actively interested in charities. After spending 2½ years with Oxfam she decided to establish her own charity, Stand Up For Africa, in response to the growing problem of child slavery in Africa today. Founded in August 2003, Nemlin works fervently for 7 days a week in her Battersea office, incessantly committed in hope of changing the lives of children in Africa.

rate this problem. West Africa is amongst the poorest regions in the world and some states have also been marred by civil wars. Some children even chose to return to work in order to provide for their families.

To eliminate the problem of Child slavery across the globe, Elsie is calling on all nations to Stand Up For Africa in this age of socio-economic deprivations; coexistence

were has trapped innocent children reliving from access to education, employment and opportunity for the good life.

"We can't afford to sit back and watch thousands of children roam away in Sudan for the sake of ethnic cleansing", Elsie said.

Currently, Elsie is planning an in-depth study of the situation in Benin and Sudan; her long-term goals involve setting up child sponsorship programmes and granting of loans as well as aiding economic growth by promoting businesses in poverty stricken communities in Africa.



Ms Elsie Nemlin, Project Director - Stand up for Africa

STAND UP FOR AFRICA

SUFA REPORT NO 1
CHILD SLAVERY

A resource for all who are interested in understanding modern slavery in Africa



▲ Elsie with Bala Sanusi (ADVAD) at No 10 Downing Street, November 2004

▲ The London Neighbour, July 2004

▲ Publication of SUFA's first Report, August 2004

OUR FIRST XMAS PARTY

The Friends Orphanage Rescue Centre in Uganda rescues and educates orphans struggling to survive the Kisugu slums. When in late 2004 we discovered that the Centre needed funding to help support the 76 children currently in its care, we decided to try and help by throwing a Christmas party with a difference.

On 3 December, our Xmas Party Charity Auction was opened by MC Patrick Duamene at Battersea's Puzzle Wine Bar. An excited crowd of around

40 people was entertained by the soulful jazz of The Justine Smith band and the invigorating voices of the Action Chapel Choir.

The donated gifts were auctioned off and everyone had a great time bidding. Altogether, £1221.75 was raised for the Friends Orphanage. We thank all our guests and supporters who attended the event, and the Puzzle Wine Bar for kindly allowing us to use their venue.

Joanna Jumbo

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: This year the SUFA Xmas Party will be held on Saturday 11 December. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact us ASAP.



Guests enjoy the fun at SUFA's Xmas Charity Auction.



SCOTLAND STANDS UP FOR AFRICA

In October 2004, Jamie Murray, a 17 year old from Glenalmond College near Perth in Scotland, was surfing the Internet to research African charities that were tackling children's suffering. He came across Stand Up For Africa's website, and decided to rally his school to support us.

As a child, Jamie spent three years in Ghana. He fell in love with the country and its people but the poverty he saw deeply disturbed him. He promised himself that one day he would try to make a difference to the children of Africa. Now, several years later, he has fulfilled that promise.

Motivated by his experiences, and supported by his College, in November 2004 Jamie launched an ambitious fundraising campaign that inspired the staff and all 450 students at Glenalmond to support SUFA. Events included sponsored head-shaving, a riotous football tournament, carol concerts, and cake-baking.

But the highlight of Jamie's campaign was an end-of-term 'Give Gig' on 15 December. At the gig Jamie would reveal just how much money had been raised and present a donation cheque to a SUFA representative.

SUFA Founder Elsie Nemlin was delighted to be invited to Glenalmond for this grand finale event. Before the gig started, guests were treated to a sumptuous three-course Christmas dinner, laid out as a beautifully-decorated festive banquet. Everyone was then escorted into the theatre where the talented students enthralled their guests with an eclectic mix of music, dancing, and comedy. Then came the

moment everyone had been waiting for... how much money had they raised?

A wave of applause greeted the announcement of the total sum of £1,703.49. Jamie proudly handed an overwhelmed Elsie the cheque and she humbly thanked the assembled audience.

This was surely one of the most exciting and moving events in SUFA's short history. SUFA sends a huge thank you to everyone at Glenalmond College, and especially to you Jamie – you are an inspiration to us all.

Natasha J Coleman

Please get in touch if your school, organisation, or company would like to fundraise for SUFA, or to nominate us as your 'Charity of the Year'.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The year 2005 started with a bang at SUFA! As Founder Elsie Nemlin began to sift through the pile of envelopes that had accumulated over the Christmas break, little did she know that the contents of one of them was going to give her – and SUFA – a wonderful New Year surprise.

For those of us who have had the privilege of working with Elsie in 2004, we knew that it was only a matter of time before her hard work and dedication saw results. And we were right. Early in the new year, Elsie discovered a cheque for £12,000 lurking in the mail – a donation from The Joffe Charitable Trust.

We were hoping for a donation from the Charitable Trust, but not on this scale and certainly not so quickly – Elsie had only contacted them two weeks before. Elsie thought that someone had made a mistake. But the gift was accompanied by a note to Elsie explaining that the cheque was "in recognition of the

commitment and potential you have shown". Finally, we can see an end to all the financial struggles we experienced during SUFA's first year.

Elsie is always the first to enter and last to leave SUFA's office in Battersea. She has even been known to sleep over on occasion. Her passionate devotion to Africa is overwhelming and her motivation to instigate change in the continent is truly infectious. Every last resource she has goes into making SUFA a success, and I think I speak for all of us when I say congratulations to Elsie and, of course, huge thanks to The Joffe Charitable Trust. We are all very grateful.

Natasha J Coleman

ARSENAL FC STANDS UP FOR AFRICA

SUFA's newest supporters are in the premier league. Arsenal Football Club has kindly donated a football shirt, signed by all members of the first team to raise money for Africa.

The plan is to auction this exclusive, beautifully-framed shirt with a reserve price of £1,000. But because we know that friends of SUFA always try to give that little bit extra, we are giving you a chance to get your hands on this collectors' item before it goes to auction.

I'm sure all you football fans would love to have this unique shirt on your wall at home or in your office. Just imagine the jealous comments from your friends and colleagues. Or, if you are feeling generous, the framed shirt would make a very special gift for one of your footie-loving friends or relatives.

So, football fans you have until Thursday 31 March to send in your bid. And remember, the money raised will support SUFA's work, so be as generous as you like!

Neil Howard



You could be the proud owner of a unique, signed Arsenal football shirt

2004 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR



Isata Conteh is a recent graduate in Law & Anthropology at SOAS. Originally from Sierra Leone, she joined SUFA in July 2004 because she had a 'passionate

desire for a future peaceful and prosperous Africa'. Isata worked incredibly hard to research and write our report on the role of the African Diaspora in Britain. She modestly accepted the award with great pleasure and thanked all at SUFA for such an honour.

BOOKKEEPER AND ADMIN. ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR



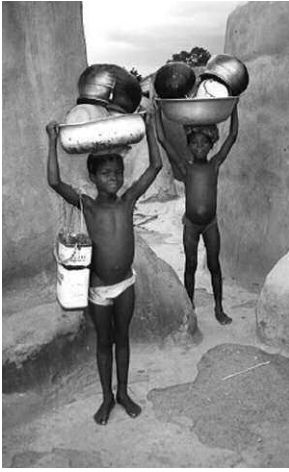
Since August 2004, Zoe Lito has worked with enormous commitment to SUFA's cause. While her native country Ukraine was experiencing political upheaval, she made Africa her priority

and juggled her studies at the University of Westminster in order to assist SUFA with bookkeeping and administration for three days each week. Her support has been invaluable to SUFA and her efforts highlight that people from all backgrounds can stand up and help Africa.

FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

17-year-old Jamie Murray from Glensalmond College in Scotland was SUFA's youngest and most successful fundraiser in 2004, raising over £1,700. He mobilised his entire school, including staff and 450 pupils, to take part in a two month fundraising campaign culminating in a Christmas concert. The gig marked the presentation of the donation cheque to SUFA. What can we say, Jamie? You truly are our champion.

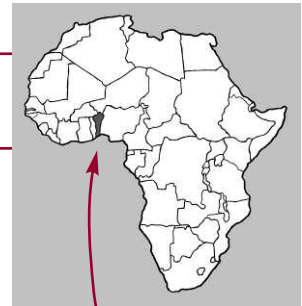
Thank you to all our volunteers for your hard work and commitment



SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

Thanks to the generosity of our donors who give monthly, we can now start our first educational sponsorship programme in West Africa.

Current donors give up to £25 a month, and we now have enough money to sponsor ten children in Benin. If everyone who reads this newsletter makes a monthly gift of just £5, even more needy children will be able to go to school and avoid becoming easy targets for traffickers. If you can give monthly to help a child go to school, please phone or email to request a gift form.



Benin

Thank you to all our supporters...

Without you, Stand up for Africa would not be able to carry on. Your gifts of facilities, expertise, products, and money are vital in helping us to stand up for Africa.

Thank you to all our individual supporters and also to:

Joffe Charitable Trust, Award For All, Daily Express, Wandsworth Borough News, The London Neighbour, Curling Garages, Hospital MetalCraft Ltd, Glenalmond College, Stephen Kalema Associates, The Fitness Exchange, Beauty and Sunbed Studios, First Impression Dry Cleaner, James Stevens Cleaning Company, Swell Music, Bliss Barber, G. Spa alternative Health & Beauty, The London Framing Studios, Second Office, Heidi Sturgess Design, Fotomagic Digital Service, The Apollo Victoria Theatre, Orsini Restaurant, Textile Technique, Louise Mabbs, The Creative Catering, Sarah & Nicholas Roberts Caterers & Party Organisers, Toscana Pizzeria, Mono Design Ltd.



WANTED: YOUR ENERGY AND PASSION!

Are you a British African or a friend of Africa? Are you enthusiastic about making a difference? Will you commit a few hours a month to fundraising or campaigning for Africa? Yes? Please contact SUFA today and start standing up for Africa. There's no time to lose, and everyone is welcome.



Yes, I want to Stand up for Africa

MY NAME: _____

MY ADDRESS: _____

MY TELEPHONE: _____

MY MOBILE: _____

MY EMAIL: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, AND RETURN TO: SUFA, PO BOX 46815, BATTERSEA, LONDON SW11 5SF
or email admin@standupforafrica.org.uk or phone ++44 (0) 207 228 7733

CONSULTATION IN CARDIFF

On 30 November 2004, SUFA delegates attended the UK Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Civil Society Conference on the Commission For Africa (CFA) at Cardiff City Hall.

The consultative Conference was held by Connections For Development (CFD) in partnership with the All Wales Ethnic Minority Association (AWEMA). Fifty-nine delegates from all over the country attended, including SUFA's Henrietta Wotorchie, Richard Ameyaw, and Elsie Nemlin.

Dr George Karani, a Kenyan Academic, was Chair and Andrew Jackson, member of the Secretariat of CFA, provided the

context for the Consultation Workshops. To help the delegates focus on the consultation process, information was provided to demonstrate the scale of the economic, health, political, and social problems faced by Africa. Delegates were reminded that, without a sustained push, the internationally-agreed targets for halving world poverty by 2015 would not be met. The Chair urged the UK BME Civil Society to get behind African efforts and



to act together on a much larger scale to overcome the obstacles facing Africa.

Alpha Bah

To read the full consultation feedback document, please visit www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

LOOKING FORWARD TO A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

Where are the Africans? The Independent posed this question in a recent article* about Band Aid 20, which has been set up to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Band Aid and support the campaign for the end of poverty in Africa. Band Aid 20 does not feature a single African musician. But why not?

With the UK government's commitment to Africa and the meeting of the G8 summit in July, 2005 is a year of extraordinary opportunity for those who love Africa to do something new, real, and positive. It is our chance to help change the concept and reality of the continent for good. But we must get involved right now.

Fairer international trade rules would give Africans the chance to earn a decent living. If trade barriers were lifted, rules made fairer, and the excessive and discriminative northern subsidies dismantled, farmers in Africa would be able to get better prices for their produce. They would be able to afford to send

their children to school. They could buy basic necessities such as food and clothing. Isn't this worth standing up for?

It seems to me that we need to make campaigning for social justice cool again. Campaigning is not just for so-called 'lefties'. If we love Africa, we must get involved. Imagine all African Britons and friends of Africa coming together. How powerful we would be!

In 2005, Sir Bob Geldof, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Chancellor Gordon Brown are going to stand up for Africa. They are tackling unfair international trade regulations which keep African farmers and producers poor. If we all, in our own little ways, support the Commission for

Africa (CFA) initiative, what a difference this would make when Tony Blair sits down at the table of the G8. He would have all of us sitting behind him, urging him on and demanding that he follow through on his commitment.

The eight world leaders who have the power to make Africa's poverty history will be in one room in July this year. But the G8 leaders must have the will to change things. And they won't have this will unless a massive movement of ordinary people like us urges them on. So please, join us to make it happen. Please, stand up with SUFA and let's **Make Poverty History** in Africa.

Elsie Nemlin



* 17 December 2004



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