

The Honourable Joe Volpe, P.C., M.P.
Eglinton-Lawrence
Member's Statement on Women For African Grandmothers
April 15, 2008

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a constituent who is leading the Toronto chapter of Women For African Grandmothers.

Beverley Britz is spearheading the effort to ensure that generic drugs reach the developing world for the treatment of HIV/AIDS. Right now in Africa, there are more than 11 million orphans being raised by their Grandmothers.

The group is currently working to have Canadian law allow a free flow of generic drugs to developing countries by pursuing legislative changes to the Canadian Access to Medicines Regime in the House of Commons.

Parliamentarians must come together with the political will to save lives and eliminate suffering. Legislative measures must be taken now by the Minister of Industry to improve access to medicines in the developing world.

Beverley Britz and her group are doing their part. I urge all Members of Parliament to support Women for African Grandmothers in this noble cause to help those suffering and dying from HIV/AIDS in Africa.