

10th July 2006

Dear Prime Minister,

The Call to Stop TB

As you prepare for next week's G8 summit in St. Petersburg, we want to draw your attention to The Call to Stop TB. Thank you for endorsing The Call, along with Hilary Benn and Gordon Brown, and thank you for your support for the Global Plan to Stop TB.

As TB patients, we know that the long course of treatment requires a lot of commitment from patients as well as health professionals, but that ultimately TB is a curable disease. It is shocking to us that 2 million people die every year from TB because they do not have access to the treatment we in the UK are able to receive. The Global Plan to Stop TB focuses on delivering treatment and supporting patients as well as developing new drugs that may reduce the length of the treatment. If we succeed in our aims, we will see treatment delivered to 50 million TB patients and we will save 14 million lives, by 2015.

Please find enclosed the UK's Call to Stop TB. It is signed by supporters representing members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, health and development NGOs, researchers, health professionals, pharmaceutical companies and TB patients, including ourselves.

On behalf of all the people who have signed this petition - and of all those around the world who are living with TB - we would urge you to ensure that the TB epidemic is placed high on the agenda of the G8 summit in St. Petersburg. Please act on your commitment by requesting that other G8 leaders follow your example and both sign The Call to Stop TB and make commitments to endorse and fully fund the Global Plan to Stop TB. The Global Plan requires £31 million funding over ten years. If we are to succeed it is essential that both your government, and others in G8, recognise the importance of achieving the aims of the Global Plan to Stop TB.

We wish you a productive G8 summit.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Watterson and Paul Thorn