



THE HARRY POTTER ALLIANCE

press@thehpalliance.org

thehpalliance.org

## Testimonials about the HPA

"When asked about the group, Rowling practically levitates off the couch, spilling her coffee along the way. "It's incredible, it's humbling, and it's uplifting to see people going out there and doing that in the name of your character," she says. She's especially pleased by the group's choice of mission, and the old Amnesty International worker in her surfaces. "What did my books preach against throughout? Bigotry, violence, struggles for power, no matter what. All of these things are happening in Darfur. So they really couldn't have chosen a better cause."

**Time Magazine, December 2007**

"Long overdue, I give you the HP Alliance (as mentioned in Time Magazine!) I am honoured and humbled that Harry's name has been given to such an extraordinary campaign, which really does exemplify the values for which Dumbledore's Army fought in the books. To Andrew and all the others who work on this most inspirational website: the world needs more people like you." **-J.K. Rowling on her official Website regarding the HPA**

"Andrew and I were introduced after he spearheaded a campaign that helped STAND see a significant spike in new chapters and volunteers. As of today, Andrew's organization has raised over \$14,000 for GI-NET's Civilian Protection Program, mobilized thousands of people in our campaigns, and earned us coverage in Time Magazine. I am excited about his vision of strengthening the connections between pop culture and social change, as Andrew nicely ties together what I've learned as the 3Es of engagement: easy, effective and entertaining. He gives young people the opportunity to make a tangible impact in ways that they feel good about, and that their peers admire as cool." **-Mark Hanis Co-founder and Executive Director of the Genocide Intervention Network**

"I think you can imagine how all of us who are doctors or nurses or providers are deeply grateful for this very pragmatic intervention, and I can't help but add as a fan of both Roald Dahl and JK Rowling that in our minds the real forces of darkness in this world today are poverty and inequality, and that is what is making it difficult to respond effectively to the needs that we see in Haiti and in other places in the world as well. So on behalf of grateful Muggles everywhere including the three to four million we serve directly, all of us join me in thanking you and other members of the Harry Potter Alliance for your help. Thank you." **-Paul Farmer, creator of Partners In Health**

"To everyone who has helped raise such an incredible amount for the earthquake survivors in Haiti: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Like many others, I made a personal donation to the DEC shortly after the earthquake happened; but never did I expect such an amazing response from all of you. You cannot imagine how awed, moved and humbled I am to know that planes named Harry, Ron and Hermione are going to be flying off to help. I did not need this to remind me how extraordinary Harry's fans are, but you keep giving me proofs. THANK YOU!" **-J.K. Rowling in reference to the HPA campaign Helping Haiti Heal**

"The HP Alliance is, without doubt, the purest expression of 'the spirit of Albus Dumbledore' yet to emerge from the Harry Potter fandom, and I am honoured and humbled that such great things are being done in Harry's name." **-J.K. Rowling in her letter to HPA Executive Director Andrew Slack**

"Andrew's ability to creatively foster connections between fiction and reality in a world that is so often disconnected enabled me to become an activist. Because of his unique approach to activism, I have been privileged to work alongside many others like myself—those who would never have called themselves "activists" before joining the HPA that are now dedicated volunteers. Andrew introduced me to a new perspective of myself: not only *how* I related to the world around me, but also how I *could* relate to the world around me.



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His framework for the HPA, a framework that is being expanded upon with the Imagine Better Project provided me with the connection I needed in order to take those first tentative steps towards action. There is no longer anything "tentative" about my involvement with and passion for activism and social justice." - **Kate Looby, former HPA Director of Operations**

"She has certainly found her disciples. Critics can dismiss Rowling's grownup fans as "kidults," but especially as the series unfolded, her audience expanded far beyond children and her impact well beyond entertainment. In addition to some 300 wizard rock bands, reams of fan fiction and countless websites, the books have inspired outfits like the Harry Potter Alliance, an online group founded by Andrew Slack, 28, a consultant in Boston, around the rallying cry "The weapon we have is love." When Deathly Hallows was released, the group organized house parties from Australia to South America and coast to coast in the U.S. to raise awareness of genocide in Darfur, in a kind of "What Would Harry Do?" campaign. The parties featured performances by such bands as the Remus Lupins and the Moaning Myrtles and a podcast by Africa experts, including Joe Wilson, a.k.a. Mr. Valerie Plame. "We can be like Dumbledore's army, who woke the world up to Voldemort's return, and wake our ministries and our world to ending the genocide in Darfur," Slack urged Harry Potter Alliance members in tones of earnest camaraderie. In the days that followed, the student antigenocide coalition stand saw a 40% increase in sign-ups for high school chapters and a 52% increase in calls to its hotline, 1-800-GENOCIDE." -**Time Magazine, December 2007**