

Dear Coronavirus

Hi there mysterious one! You come like a thief in the night. Across the world countries are shaken and scared with your untimely arrival. We thought HIV was brutal, but we now see that you are even worse. Not knowing where you come from is not an issue, but we need answers as to when you are leaving us.

I speak on behalf of all youths whose lives have been put on hold. We can no longer plan and live like we used to; you have made us more cautious than ever. We can't enjoy the beautiful outdoors without the thought of you waiting to claim our lives like trophies for the taking. When you came, we thought you would not stick around. Unlike Ebola, who came like a wildfire and spread so quickly and then burnt out faster than he started, you have shaken and crippled the global economies. What about us small countries who depend on exporting our raw materials, you did not think of us. Learned men and women are puzzled by your creation, they study you day and night with no rest to try and break your evil plan; you are a mystery my friend. Your mystery is one which is still far from being solved, since your arrival you have separated families and created an element of distrust among long term friends. The medical field is on the brink of collapsing, doctors no longer feel safe in the jobs of their dreams and nurses are at high risk every day. The informal and formal sector is affected as people can no longer enjoy life since you came.

A concern was raised by **Young Adolescents Living with HIV** since you prey on those who have weaker immune systems. They wonder if they are safe from you. Some cry day and night saying after so long coming to terms with HIV you came along and have shaken their foundations of security again. The one place they would meet and have their group talks was the hospital, it was their haven, now it's a no-go area, you can't cough freely anymore without people giving you the eye. If only you knew that the entire world is saying that you have overstayed your welcome.

What can we do to be at peace with you? I truly wonder because it looks like no amount of money is enough for you, but you look so thirsty for innocent souls. If you were sent by the **Grim Reaper** to collect on those whose debts are overdue please give us a list and spare us from the unnecessary evil you are doing unto us because that's now injustice at its best. I write you this letter with a heavy heart. Final year students have their lives on hold when they were once so excited to go into the world and change it for the better. You seem not to care. We are tired of having to look over our shoulders. I hope and pray that they find a solution to your mystery and when they do, they should put you in a box, lock you away and throw away the key. All we ask of you is to make your peace and move on, we have enough hate in the world we were trying to solve before you got here. I guess you have chosen to stick around this long, and we have to plan our lives and include you in them. We need a secure assurance as people living with HIV because we have so much to lose in this fight. If a vaccine is made please bear in mind that you owe us that much, so please put us on top of your list of people who will be protected against you. Please stop the killing and let us get back to our normal lives

Yours faithfully, A Concerned Youth