

# *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated*

*A Public Service Sorority Founded in 1913*

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## **CALL FOR ACTION: IMMEDIATE STEPS TO SUPPORT HAITI RELIEF EFFORTS**

Dear Sorors:

It is with a heavy heart and a spirit of hope that I write to you regarding the 7.0 earthquake that devastated the country of Haiti a few days ago. In a country where more than half the population lives on less than a \$1 a day, this catastrophic event adds yet another burden to the long suffering people of Haiti. As a result of this disaster and an already crumbling infrastructure, the Haitian people are faced with a severe lack of shelter/housing, medical care and clean water, as well as the interruption of their educational system, among many other things.

Delta Sigma Theta has a long history of support to the people of Haiti in the form of monetary relief and advocacy for humane living conditions. For many years, there was a Delta alumnae chapter in Haiti's capital city, Port-au-Prince, where the earthquake appears to have done the most damage, according to news reports. As information regarding sorors in the area of impact comes to National Headquarters, we will be certain to share how we can help these sorors and their families directly. To date, we have heard from one soror who has asked for our prayers for her family as they have no home at this time. We plan to work with this soror to find the best way to provide assistance to her during this devastating time. If you know of any other sorors in Haiti, please email National Headquarters at [cmundon@deltasigmatheta.org](mailto:cmundon@deltasigmatheta.org).

As we keep our brothers and sisters in Haiti in the forefront of our thoughts and prayers, we must also take this opportunity to serve as advocates for them and their struggle. I know that as active members of your community, you are already involved in efforts to assist, but I implore you to join us in the following efforts:

- 1) Visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/HaitiEarthquake> to find out the best ways that you can help the people of Haiti. You can also find more ways to help through the [Center for International Disaster Information](#), or through [USAID's interactive Web site](#), which has a list of NGOs and instructions on how to help.

Delta Sigma Theta participated in a conference call with senior members of the Obama Administration and we were cautioned to avoid uncoordinated efforts. Per this conference call, we were informed the USAID are coordinating the United States relief efforts.

- 2) Donate immediately. You can immediately donate to the Red Cross to assist the relief effort. [Contribute online to the Red Cross](#), or donate \$10 to be charged to your cell phone bill by texting "HAITI" to "90999."
- 3) Contact your representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate and ask them to:
  - a. Support efforts to grant Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to Haitian immigrants living in the United States. For more information, see [H.R. 144, the Haitian Protection Act](#).
  - b. Support efforts to provide Haiti with long term assistance with building its physical and economic infrastructure. This earthquake brings to light the need for permanent assistance for

Haiti, the poorest nation in our hemisphere. Ask your representative to support comprehensive, long term initiatives to empower the people of Haiti through sustainable job creation and infrastructure building.

Once you have contributed to these efforts, please go to the Social Action Center on our Web site, [www.deltasigmatheta.org](http://www.deltasigmatheta.org), to report your activities and contributions via the **Haiti Recovery Efforts Survey**. It is imperative that you take this very important step. This information is used to track the effectiveness of our efforts and document the contributions, monetary and otherwise, of members of Delta Sigma Theta.

Sorors, please know that this is just an immediate first step that Delta is making to address this crisis. Our plan is to implement an on-going, long-term and sustainable relief program to help the people of Haiti recover from this disaster. You will hear more as we receive directives from President Obama and collaborate with other organizations/corporations on the best way to proceed for maximum impact. Please continue to check the national Web site frequently for updates. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Soror Candi Mundon ([cmundon@deltasigmatheta.org](mailto:cmundon@deltasigmatheta.org)) or Soror Ella McNair ([emcnair@deltasigmatheta.org](mailto:emcnair@deltasigmatheta.org)).

While we implement these efforts, I ask that you continue to pray for the restoration of our brothers and sisters in Haiti and for the safety of the brave service personnel assisting them. I thank you in advance for your continued service and commitment to this effort.

Sincerely,

*Cynthia M. A. Butler McIntyre*

Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre  
National President