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At a press conference in Johannesburg this morning, Nobel Laureate Nadine Gordimer and South African singer, Ringo Madlingozi, joined the Treatment Action Campaign in making a call for all people in South Africa and internationally to work together to prevent new HIV infections and ensure treatment for people with AIDS. They supported TAC's call for actions of solidarity by the influential and successful with the poor and marginalised.

Madlingozi talked about his mission as a musician to 'create music that will heal' and pledged that one track on his coming album would be dedicated to the TAC and its community work. He called on young women to protect themselves from HIV by carrying condoms and ensuring that they are not forced into sexual relationships.

Gordimer reported that her book 'Telling Tales', a collection of short stories by internationally acclaimed writers, including 5 Nobel Laureates, was now available in 16 different languages. The book is making no profit for the authors or publishers and all royalties are being donated to the Treatment Action Campaign. Gordimer handed over a cheque for R1,449,248.81 to the TAC 'royalties from sales in the United States and United Kingdom.

The TAC issued its heartfelt thanks to Gordimer and Madlingozi. We regard them as champions for people with HIV. Finally, the TAC issued a call for ordinary people all over the world to make financial contributions to the TAC to help us to continue our work of HIV prevention and treatment and campaign to restore hope and dignity to people and communities already affected by HIV.

(To make a contribution to TAC, visit <http://web.archive.org/web/20061009005524/http://www.tac.org.za/donatenow>)

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