



HONG KONG IVORY BAN

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I am writing to you today as a lead organizer for the Global March for Elephants – State of Michigan. Since the inception of the Marches that began in 2013, I have received over 10,000 signatures from residents of the State of Michigan on a petition that supports a complete ban on the sale of ivory products. 99% of the people I talk to on a daily basis will agree that ivory is not a necessity for anyone except for the glorious, sentient creature that had the misfortune of being born with it... The Elephant. The Elephant is one of the most impressive, iconic, and smartest creature that has walked the Earth for millions of years... Elephants use their tusks which are made from ivory to forge for food, to dig holes for water and strip bark from trees during the dry season...tusks are essential for the Elephant's survival. But why on earth do humans needs ivory?? The simple answer is they don't... not in the past, not now and not in the future. Ivory is a status symbol that with each passing day has more of a stigma attached to it as it represents murder, death and violence. So for these simple reasons I ask on behalf of thousands... hundreds of thousands of people that understand that ivory only belong to Elephants to please ban all ivory in Hong Kong. If we do not stop killing elephants for their ivory they will be extinct in less than 10 years... and that will be tragic for people that love to see beauty in the world and for the people of Africa that depend on Elephants for tourism. Without Elephants the entire continent of Africa will become a vast graveyard that no one will want to visit. Africa will dry up because Elephants also plant the forests and create food and shade for other animals through their droppings as they are herbivores and Elephants are environmentalists.

Again, I respectfully urge you to please support the Hong Kong Ivory Ban as I and millions of animal advocates do AND I urge the Hong Kong Legislative Council to refrain from supporting any action that compensates ivory traders. Ivory traders fund poachers that fund terrorism and terrorism is not only a threat to Elephants it is also a threat to all humankind.

Thank you.

Andrea Batlemento
Global March for Elephants - Michigan