

To Whom it May Concern:

I hope this letter finds you well. It is my desire that it opens up a dialogue between you and I from which we can both deeply benefit.

Let me begin by introducing myself in hopes that my words come to you not simply from a computer screen, but from the human being that I am. My name is Katie and I am 22 years old. I believe in peace, inclusion, love, restoration, learning people's middle names, and avoiding mayonnaise at all costs. I help run a small but mighty (we like to think) annual gathering of young adults who long to make the world a better place. I ride a bicycle named Madeline.

There are a lot of reasons why I support the work that Invisible Children is doing in the world. It seems that we have very similar dreams for how we want the world to look one day. It seems we both begin with an acknowledgement of universal human dignity and value.

Though this is true, I must confess that I still squirm in my seat a little bit each time I hear someone in my vicinity speak about Invisible Children.

You may be expecting me to move on from here to write to you about how I think your financials are shady, or that you spend too much money on media.

I'm not writing about that. In fact, I see Invisible Children as a leader in reaching my generation, and I believe your extremely impressive use of media is to thank (in part) for this. I believe you have honed in on a form of creative expression that is world-changing. I have, in fact, aped your graphic design in my own work.

You may also be expecting me to move on from here to write to you about how I think your work is simply fueling a "fad" or that you are corralling young adults to fight for your cause simply because they think that it's "cool."

This, I am not writing about either. I am not interested in tearing people down who are trying to pursue good, no matter how popular it is. I commend you for reaching a point where you are actually ridiculed for creating something that both works for the betterment of humanity and is attractive enough to be considered "cool."

The reason I squirm in my seat is because I think to myself, "I wonder what Joseph Kony's favorite color is."

I think about that because Joseph Kony is human too. And he has equal and inherent value, **no matter how many atrocities he has committed, is committing, and will commit.**

And every time I hear about Invisible Children, I worry that in the noble attempt to save the world from the unfathomable wickedness and violence imposed on so many innocent people by Joseph Kony and the rest of the LRA, you have created an enemy

out of a man. I worry that you have turned a human being into the most vile object people who care about justice and love could ever dream about. I worry that those who zealously support the mission of Invisible Children to put an end to the violence of the LRA are bound together not for their love of the oppressed, but for their hatred of the oppressor.

As I said before, my hope in writing this letter is to open up a dialogue between us. And the easiest way to dialogue is to ask questions.

So, my question for you is this: How are you promoting the inherent value of Joseph Kony?

I deeply appreciate your time and consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

All the best,
Katie Lynn Dwyer