

# "AMOR" <sup>1</sup>

## INTERVIEW Ms. Tasha de Vasconcelos



NICOLAS-EMILIEN ROZEAU

You have been Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF for several consecutive years.

### **What lessons do you draw from your commitment?**

It opened my eyes to understand what my parents have taught and Audrey Hepburn explains much in one sentence: "We have two hands, one to help ourselves and to help others". But the problem of UNICEF and all international organizations, it is the bureaucracy. You know, it's hard to run an international authority on the human as in terms of case management and personal sensitivities.

### **Following UN your experience, your gaze on the UN has it changed?**

The United Nations has been created with an extraordinary idea. Today, the problem is how to enforce the decisions and resolutions taken by the Council of Human Rights and the Security Council.

### **The page of your presence within the organization have definitely touring?**

Obviously not! I will fight all my life to helping others. I would be honored to work again for the United Nations. But with a real function, not a simple use of my image.

**You are currently Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to combat poverty and social exclusion in the world, a function that is brought to you by your compatriot, the President Manuel Barroso. What made you choose?**

This fight has spoken to my heart. I had experience in this area and, after several meetings with President Barroso, it convinced me to hire me for a term of one year. There are many employees in this system with great people, but imagine the administration of a country multiplied by 27 ... And then, over time, I realized that I needed to be more practical and effective in my humanitarian work. That's why I created my own association AMOR (Help World comfort orphans).

**April 15, 2009, you opened in Malawi - not far from your homeland of Mozambique - a maternity hospital as part of your association AMOR created in 2006. Despite your presence on the field of representation (Institut Pasteur, European Union, the Express Monaco ...), February 16, 2011 titled one of his articles *humanitarian association Amor lack of money, how to explain Do you?***

AMOR does not live with public money, or with government grants. And because of my commitment to the EU, I am not in a position to apply for EU subsidies. The global crisis and the global turmoil we are experiencing slow the generosity of private donors are vital to us. That's why I sold the copyright of my book to the association for each book sold saves one baby. I'll never let go of my action, nor give up.

**What is the balance Amor?**

This year, we saved 789 babies from AIDS and three times the visits of some mothers walk five hours to come to us. 94% of the donations we receive are on the ground for people in need.

**What is your relationship to beauty, you and the world around us?**

The world around us is not always beautiful, and we always come back to the history of glass half empty or half full: You must learn to see the beauty behind all things and never lose hope, never give up this how we think. And when you ask me about my beauty, if at least it can help to shed light on the causes far more important than my little one, I think I managed my life.

**In your various commitments over the past ten years is there not a desire or need to free you of your physical appearance in your own eyes and to those who look at you to show your interest, strength your life, live and above all in the movement or what you can afford another. *The beauty as a weapon*<sup>2</sup>, is not first and foremost vis-à-vis your own?**

We always do things against our own course, but also in relation to others. I have given meaning to my life in my career, I made sure that my human values coincide with my work. This is the story I tell in my book. The concept: "Be nice and shut up" is totally meaningless. But to exist today and to support humanitarian projects, you need the media. Image is everything in our society and that is why I decided to indulge in the pages of *beauty as a weapon* ( [www.tashadevasconcelos.com](http://www.tashadevasconcelos.com) ).

**At the heart of your personal struggle, is there not like a homecoming, to your own human nature?**

Indeed, I am African. I feel African. To me, homecoming is natural and obvious. The roots are very important, no matter where you came from. The African soul in my veins.

**In *the experience of unity*, Swami Pvajnanpad said "Freedom is nothing but freedom vis-à-vis the past. "Are you a free woman and serene about the future? You always know where we come to know each other well and know where you are going ... The future, everyone builds it. To be calm, be aware overcome fears, anxieties and trust toward others.**

<sup>1</sup> An association AMOR (Help World Orphans comfort): <http://www.amorinternational.org/en/our-aim.html>

<sup>2</sup> The beauty as a weapon by Editions Michel Lafon