



## **Global March for Elephants and Rhinos - Burlington, Vermont**

**Sunday, October 4, 2015**

**Burlington City Hall, Church Street**

**11am ~ Gather on Church Street in front of City Hall**

**11:30am ~ March**

**Noon ~ Rally on Church Street in front of City Hall**

This year, on the first weekend in October, thousands of people around the world will march as one voice to put an end to the ivory and rhino horn trade. Unless action is taken now, we will lose these majestic, highly intelligent, and emotionally sentient creatures forever in just 5-10 years--- with lasting and far-reaching negative impacts on every level.

More than 35,000 elephants are being killed every year—that's one every 15 minutes—for their ivory and because of greed. A rhino is slaughtered once every 8 hours for its horn. Between 2010 and 2012 alone, poachers slaughtered more than 100,000 elephants (about a quarter of their entire population on earth). It is also estimated that 1,000 park rangers have been killed in the line of duty over the past 10 years, 75% by commercial poachers and armed militia groups.

Poaching has become killing on an industrialized scale and by the world's worst militia and terrorist groups. The \$1.4 billion ivory trade feeds crime syndicates. Political instability and corruption across Africa have made the enormous profits from the ivory black market a viable source for funding military resistance groups such as Al-Shabaab, Janjaweed, and Lord's Resistance Army.

Perhaps the most important fact you must know about this crisis is this: as long as there is value in ivory- no matter the age of the ivory—the killing will continue.

The US is second only to China in the blood ivory trade. And Vermonters say no more!

The goal of this exciting, kid-driven march is to create awareness surrounding the crisis and to show Vermonters what we must do to save the species. Citizens will be encouraged to contact their state representatives to ask them to support H.297, Vermont's ivory and rhino horn trade ban bill, without exemptions, in 2016. The only hope for survival of these species and the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on them for tourism lies in an immediate end to the ivory and rhino horn trade.

Join us as Burlington, Vermont and citizens of all ages from around the state unite and march against extinction on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. To find out more about the march and to register for this free, kid-friendly event, please visit [www.ivoryfreevermont.org](http://www.ivoryfreevermont.org). Our junior elephant activists have chosen to march in honor of Thin Green Line Foundation ([www.thingreenline.org.au](http://www.thingreenline.org.au)), an organization dedicated to providing vital support to park rangers and their communities who are the front-line of conservation.

Marchers will gather at 11:00 near City Hall on Church Street in advance of the 11:30am kickoff to the march followed by a noon rally on the steps of City Hall. Protect our Wildlife- POW ([www.protectourwildlifevt.org](http://www.protectourwildlifevt.org)) is leading the charge in this event and we also share great thanks to Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center for being the march's lead sponsor!

~KID-FRIENDLY UPDATE!~  
**Davis Studio Joins the Crusade!**

Join us for the "**Ivory is for Elephants**" **Kid's T-shirt Making Workshop** on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Davis Studio, a proud supporting sponsor of the march, at 4 Howard Street in Burlington. In celebration of and preparation for this event, Davis Studio will open its doors on September 27<sup>th</sup> for children and families to let their creativity shine while they create a t-shirt to show their support and wear at the march. For a special small fee, each participant will receive a t-shirt and all of the creative materials necessary to make a personalized ellie shirt. There will be a documentary shown after each workshop and refreshments will be served. Registration is limited! Please register today and find more information at [www.davisstudiovt.com](http://www.davisstudiovt.com). This event is a kickoff celebration for Vermont's first Global March for Elephants and Rhinos - Burlington, Vermont which will take place on the Church Street Marketplace at City Hall on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Junior elephant activists here in Vermont are coordinating this march along with a team of Vermont wildlife activists who are working tirelessly to create awareness

surrounding the plight of elephants in the ivory trade and to ensure that Vermont's own ivory and rhino horn trade ban bill, H.297, passes without exemptions in 2016.

Our junior elephant activists have chosen to march in honor of Thin Green Line Foundation ([www.thingreenline.org.au](http://www.thingreenline.org.au)), an organization dedicated to providing vital support to park rangers and their communities who are the front-line of conservation. Vermonters will march in solidarity with children, adults, and families from around the world to put an end to the ivory and rhino horn trade. If you are unable to join us for the workshop, for more information on the march and to register for this free, kid-friendly event, please visit [www.ivoryfreevermont.org](http://www.ivoryfreevermont.org).