

BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF NELSON MANDELA

**“We can in fact change the world and make of it
a better place.”**

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity — as a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.

One hundred years after his birth, Nelson Mandela’s example of courage and compassion, and his commitment to social justice and a culture of freedom continue to inspire the world.

Nelson Mandela International Day 2018 marks 100 years since the birth of Nelson Mandela. The centenary is an occasion to reflect on his life and legacy, and to follow his call to “make of the world a better place.”

This exhibit honours Nelson Mandela’s contributions to the main areas of work of the United Nations — peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development — and illustrates initiatives taken by the United Nations General Assembly in recognition of the South African leader’s legacy on conflict resolution, reconciliation, gender equality, the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, and the fight against poverty.

This exhibit is organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations.



“Each of us can make a difference in promoting peace, human rights, sustainable development, and lives of dignity for all. Each of us can be inspired by Nelson Mandela’s example. Let us all build on the legacy of Nelson Mandela.”

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

Nelson Mandela embodied the highest values of the United Nations.

To honour his legacy on the promotion of social justice, the fight against poverty, and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world, the United Nations General Assembly in 2009 proclaimed Nelson Mandela’s birthday, 18 July, as “Nelson Mandela International Day,” devoting the day to public service. Individuals around the world are asked to mark Nelson Mandela International Day by making a difference in their communities.

Every day, the United Nations works for peace, human rights and sustainable development for everyone everywhere. Due to the powers vested in its Charter and its unique international character, the United Nations is exceptionally well placed to address issues confronting humanity in the 21st century, including disarmament, climate change, humanitarian crises, health emergencies, gender equality, and more.

Its success very much depends on passionate, principled, courageous and responsible leadership such as shown by Nelson Mandela.

NELSON MANDELA AT THE UN

“The great challenge of our age to the United Nations Organization is to answer the question — given the interdependence of the nations of the world, what is it that we can and must do to ensure that democracy, peace and prosperity prevail everywhere.”

Nelson Mandela in an address to the United Nations General Assembly (3 October 1994)



Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of the African National Congress, addresses the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in New York — his first appearance before the Organization.

UN Photo/Pernaca Sudhakaran (22 June 1990)



Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, enters the United Nations General Assembly Hall to address its fifty-third session. At his side is United Nations Chief of Protocol, Nadia Younes.

UN Photo/Evan Schneider (21 September 1998)

PEACE

“Peace is not just the absence of conflict; peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish, regardless of race, colour, creed, religion, gender, class, caste, or any other social markers of difference.”

Nelson Mandela to the Global Convention on Peace and Nonviolence,
New Delhi, India (31 January 2004)

The United Nations came into being in 1945, following the devastation of the Second World War, with a primary mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN does this by working to prevent conflict; helping parties in conflict make peace; peacekeeping; and creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish.

Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist host countries in navigating the difficult path from conflict to peace. Since 1948, more than a million women and men from over 120 countries have served as UN peacekeepers. Every day, they make a tangible difference in the lives of millions of the world’s most vulnerable people.



#ServingForPeace #PK70



A Rwandan police officer of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) is greeted by women and children while on patrol in Gao, Mali.

UN Photo/Marco Dormino (15 May 2014)

PEACE

The United Nations Secretary-General's 2018 report on **Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace** calls for more diplomacy, dialogue and mediation to head off conflicts before they break out, putting prevention at the heart of the UN's work.



Nelson Mandela, facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process, visits UN Headquarters in New York to brief the Security Council on the situation in Burundi. Following the Council meeting, Mr. Mandela (centre) meets with correspondents at the press stakeout near the Council Chamber.

UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe (29 September 2000)

Did you know?

In honour of the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth, the General Assembly will hold a high-level meeting, to be known as Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, on 24 September 2018, a day before the general debate of its seventy-third session. The Summit will focus on global peace and security, promoting the South African leader's legacy on conflict resolution and reconciliation.

(General Assembly resolution 72/243 of 22 December 2017)

HUMAN RIGHTS

“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.”

Nelson Mandela at a joint meeting of the United States Congress,
Washington DC (26 June 1990)

The promotion and protection of human rights is a key purpose and guiding principle of the United Nations. In 1948, the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** laid out universal values and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. Today it is the most translated document in the world. This year’s 70th anniversary of the milestone document is an opportunity for States and other stakeholders to recommit to upholding the principles of equality, justice and human dignity, and make them a reality for everyone everywhere.



Nelson Mandela’s and a baby’s hands.

Nelson Mandela Foundation/Peter Moray



“The challenge posed by the next 50 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by the next century whose character it must help to fashion, consists in whether humanity, and especially those who will occupy positions of leadership, will have the courage to ensure that, at last, we build a human world consistent with the provisions of that historic Declaration and other human rights instruments that have been adopted since 1948.”

Nelson Mandela on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (21 September 1998)

HUMAN RIGHTS

After 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela was freed in 1990 and negotiated with State President F. W. de Klerk the end of apartheid in South Africa, bringing peace to a racially divided country and leading the fight for human rights around the world.

Did you know?

The elimination of South Africa's system of legalized racial discrimination known as *apartheid* ("apart-ness" in the Afrikaans language of the descendants of the first Dutch settlers) was on the agenda of the United Nations from its inception. Over the decades, the world body contributed to the global struggle against apartheid by drawing world attention to the inhumanity of the system, legitimizing popular resistance, promoting anti-apartheid actions by governmental and non-governmental organizations, instituting an arms embargo, and supporting an oil embargo and boycotts of apartheid.



Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress, casting the ballot in his country's first all-race elections, at Ohlange High School near Durban.

UN Photo/Chris Sattlberger (1 April 1994)

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. The rights to equality and non-discrimination are cornerstones of human rights law. Yet racism, xenophobia and intolerance are problems prevalent in all societies, and discriminatory practices are widespread. States are urged to take measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to promote tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom.”

Nelson Mandela at a Live 8 concert, Johannesburg, South Africa (2 July 2005)

In 2015, United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Governments, businesses and civil society together with the United Nations are mobilizing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Agenda by 2030. Universal, inclusive and indivisible, the Agenda calls for action by all countries to improve the lives of people everywhere.



#GlobalGoals

Did you know?

Extreme poverty rates have been cut by more than half since 1990. But almost 11% of the world's population, or about 783 million people, still live on less than \$1.90 a day, according to the latest global estimates.

(UN Secretary-General's 2018 report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“The fight against AIDS goes beyond the physical and physiological; it challenges our thinking and our approach to many aspects of life. ...Let us start [the war against AIDS] by breaking the silence around the issue of HIV/AIDS. Stigmatization and silence are as serious killers as the virus itself.”

Nelson Mandela at the Youth Forum on HIV/AIDS, Kenya (22 September 2003)



The United Nations Secretariat Building is lit with the Red AIDS ribbon, demonstrating the Organization's commitment to the battle against HIV/AIDS, and to spotlight the General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS on 25-27 June 2001.

UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe (23 June 2001)

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Did you know?

In 2016, there were 36.7 million people living with HIV. About 53% of them had access to treatment. The extraordinary scale-up of antiretroviral treatment has reduced AIDS-related deaths from 1.5 million in 2010 to 1 million in 2016. Since 2010, new HIV infections among adults declined by an estimated 11%, from 1.9 million to 1.7 million in 2016.

(UNAIDS)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela at the launch of Mindset Network,
Johannesburg, South Africa (16 July 2003)

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Did you know?

Despite considerable progress in primary school enrolment over the last two decades, 61 million children of primary school age worldwide were still out of school in 2015, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. And schools in least developed countries often lack basic infrastructure: only 34% of primary schools had electricity, and less than 40% were equipped with basic handwashing facilities in 2016.

(Global Education Monitoring Report 2017/8; UN Secretary-General's 2018 report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals)



Nelson Mandela Foundation/Debbie Yazbek

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“As long as outmoded ways of thinking prevent women from making a meaningful contribution to society, progress will be slow. As long as the nation refuses to acknowledge the equal role of more than half of itself, it is doomed to failure.”

Nelson Mandela on National Women’s Day, South Africa (9 August 1996)



Students of the Alfaki Abdallah Albigawi Basic Level School for girls in El Fasher (North Darfur) commemorate Nelson Mandela International Day, organized by the African Union – United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

UN Photo/Albert González Farran (18 July 2011)

Did you know?

Globally, the percentage of women in parliament has increased from 19% in 2010 to around 23% in 2018. In the private sector, less than 38% of senior and middle management positions are occupied by women. On an average day, women spend about three times as many hours on unpaid domestic and care work as men, and significantly more if they have children.

(UN Secretary-General’s 2018 report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals)

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“That our government has made significant progress in bringing potable water nearer to so many more people than was previously the case, I rate amongst the most important achievements of democracy in our country.”

Nelson Mandela at the opening of the WaterDome during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa (28 August 2002)

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Did you know?

In 2015, about 844 million people around the world still lacked access to a basic drinking water source, and 2.3 billion people lacked access to basic sanitation services. Only 27% of the population in least developed countries had basic handwashing facilities.

(UN Secretary-General's 2018 report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals)



Women in Pô, Burkina Faso, returning home from a community well with containers full of water.

UN Photo/Ray Witlin



NELSON
MANDELA
INTERNATIONAL DAY
18 July

“It is in your hands to make of the world a better place.”

Nelson Mandela

Every year on 18 July — Nelson Mandela’s birthday — individuals around the world are asked to mark Nelson Mandela International Day by making a difference in their communities. UN staff around the world engage with local communities to take action and inspire change — from rebuilding homes destroyed by a storm, to offering school supplies to children, preparing meals for the elderly, helping out in orphanages, cleaning up parks and delivering computer literacy workshops.

Nelson Mandela International Day was established by General Assembly resolution 64/13 on 10 November 2009.



Nelson Mandela Foundation/Debbie Yazbek



Singer, songwriter and UN Messenger of Peace Stevie Wonder speaking at the General Assembly’s informal meeting in observance of Nelson Mandela International Day.

UN Photo/JC Mollwaine (18 July 2016)



Danny Glover, actor, director, and political activist, leaving the General Assembly’s informal meeting in observance of Nelson Mandela International Day.

UN Photo/Kim Haughton (18 July 2017)



NELSON
MANDELA
INTERNATIONAL DAY
18 July



The United Nations partnered with MillionTreesNYC to care for dozens of newly planted trees near the United Nations Headquarters and in the community of East Harlem, New York City.

UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe (18 July 2014)

Staff of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) observe Mandela Day by scrubbing the floor in the Goma General Hospital.

UN Photo/Sylvain Liechti (18 July 2012)



The United Nations information centre in Manila, Philippines, mobilized more than 500 volunteers to join a shore clean-up in the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area.

UNIC Manila (18 July 2017)





NELSON
MANDELA
INTERNATIONAL DAY
18 July



Staff from the United Nations information centre in Yaoundé, Cameroon at the National Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities where participants shared uplifting messages and gifts with patients.

UNIC Yaoundé (18 July 2017)



Ambassador Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, helping out on an urban farm on Randall's Island in New York City, in observance of Nelson Mandela International Day.

UN staff (18 July 2017)



United Nations staff in New York helped rebuild houses destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in Long Beach and Far Rockaway, areas that took the brunt of the storm.

UN staff (18 July 2013)



Staff from the United Nations information centre in Jakarta, Indonesia worked at a local community garden in the Cikini area of central Jakarta, planting celery on raised beds, harvesting jicama and ambarella, and donating organic fertilizer, black soil and water sprays.

UNIC Jakarta (18 July 2017)

THE NELSON MANDELA PRIZE



Helena Ndume of Namibia and Jorge Fernando Branco Sampaio of Portugal, the winners of the first United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, at the award ceremony on 24 July 2015.

UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

The United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, established by General Assembly resolution 68/275 of 6 June 2014, is an honorary award presented once every five years as a tribute to the outstanding achievements of two individuals (one female and one male) from different geographic regions. The Prize recognizes the South African leader's contributions to democracy, justice and reconciliation and his dedication to the service of humanity. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 and awarded for the first time in 2015, to Dr. Helena Ndume of Namibia and H.E. Mr. Jorge Fernando Branco Sampaio of Portugal. Dr. Ndume is an ophthalmologist whose life's work has been the treatment of blindness and eye-related illnesses, both in Namibia and throughout the developing world. Mr. Branco Sampaio became a leader in the struggle for the restoration of democracy in Portugal and served as Deputy Minister for External Co-operation, as Mayor of Lisbon from 1989 to 1995, and as President of the Republic from 1996 to 2006.



The UN Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize.

Designed by the UN Graphic Design Unit
UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

THE NELSON MANDELA RULES



Detainees at Bamyán Central Prison, Afghanistan.

UN Photo/Eric Kanalsstein

To honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison in the course of his struggle for global human rights, equality, democracy and the promotion of a culture of peace, the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 70/175 of 17 December 2015 adopted a revised set of the “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,” to be known as “the Nelson Mandela Rules.” The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) serves as the custodian of these rules for the humane treatment of prisoners.

KEY DATES IN NELSON MANDELA'S LIFE



Nelson Mandela Foundation/Alet van Huyssteen

- 18 July 1918** Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela born in Mvezo, South Africa
- 1944** Joins the African National Congress (ANC)
- 1944** Founds the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) with others
- 1948** Elected as National Secretary of the ANCYL
- 1952** Launch of the "Defiance" Campaign, a massive civil disobedience campaign against unjust laws
Mandela is elected National Volunteer-in-Chief for the campaign
- 1956 to 1961** Mandela one of 156 accused in the Treason Trial
- 21 March 1960** Sharpeville massacre, during which 69 men, women and children are killed and about 200 wounded. The government soon declares a state of emergency and arrests about 18,000 protesters.
The ANC is banned and Mandela goes underground.
- 1961** Formation of the ANC's armed movement, Umkhonto we Sizwe ("Spear of the Nation"), with Mandela as commander-in-chief
- 1962** Mandela travels to other parts of Africa and Europe
- 5 August 1962** Mandela arrested for illegal exit from the country and incitement to strike. He is convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment.
- July 1963** Arrest of prominent ANC leaders at Rivonia. Mandela is accused with them
- 12 June 1964** Sentenced to life imprisonment and sent to Robben Island (later moved to Pollsmoor Prison and then Victor Verster Prison)
- 1985** Amidst prolonged mass protests against the apartheid system, the ANC initiates talks with the regime
- February 1990** Released from prison
- 1993** Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (along with F.W. de Klerk)
- 27 April 1994** First multi-racial elections held in South Africa with full enfranchisement, with the ANC winning a strong majority
- 10 May 1994** Inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected president, standing down in 1999 after one term
- 5 December 2013** Nelson Mandela passed away in Johannesburg at the age of 95

