



# The Mandela Legacy Organizations

'At my age, one cannot help but think of the future, especially the responsibilities that we bear for the generations to come.

I hope that I have made a small contribution in working towards a better future for Africa, for Africans. There are three Mandela organizations that support this work: The Nelson Mandela Foundation, The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, and The Mandela Rhodes Foundation. I want to ensure that the important work they carry out will be continued long after I am gone.

We are now able to concentrate very clearly on the work of these independent but interlinked Legacy Organizations, each charged with giving expression to a specific aspect of human development. I hope you will be as excited as I am about what will be achieved by these highly functional and well-organized bodies working in our name.'

– Nelson Mandela

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## In the name of Mandela: Rolling out the legacy

Not only is Nelson Mandela unquestionably the commanding moral figure in all South Africa's history; he is quite plausibly that of the entire 20th century. In 1994 the man who had been the world's most famous political prisoner became the first democratic president of one of the world's most brutally divided societies. That was noteworthy enough in itself, but in fact only the beginning of a moral journey beyond price for humankind.

He became indeed a successful leader of his country, but insisted on stepping down from the presidency after only one term. By the end of the millennium he had come to personify hope and integrity for an entire brutalized world – he became an icon who outgrew his country.

It was as if a world that was to become more and more troubled more and more needed a Nelson Mandela. That he is a South African is in this sense incidental: in tandem with internal dynamics, events in the world well outside South Africa's remit played a great part in what came to pass – global developments accelerated the globalization of Mandela. As geopolitics became more fractured and fractious, Mandela's consistent voice of reconciliation and negotiation was heard ever more plainly.

It is probably true to say that, merely because of his age, Mandela's greatest formal speeches have already been made, but that does not mean that his impact is on the wane. Far from it; his canon is complete, and the greatest work of his life, which will continue long after he has gone, is just beginning. It is therefore not coincidental that now he, his family, his advisers and staff are concentrated upon the task of ensuring that the Mandela legacy is given proper organizational expression in perpetuity. Hence the historic task of ensuring the sustainability and growth of the 'Mandela Legacy Organizations.'



## Expanding the horizons of human freedom and development

The Nelson Mandela Foundation is responsible for the management of Mr. Mandela's diary and personal arrangements. It also plays a catalytic and enabling role in a variety of projects aimed at fulfilling Mr. Mandela's core vision of expanding the horizons of human freedom and development. The Annual Nelson Mandela Lecture, among other projects, is a signature initiative of the organization.

Hands-on management of individual programs is not the core function of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, but rather the facilitation and enablement of such programs. The Foundation spearheads structured dialogue on reconciliation, a key aspect of Mr. Mandela's legacy, and has been instrumental in building awareness of the fight against HIV/Aids, particularly through the international 46664 campaign. The Foundation is involved in rural schooling and has launched a significant Africa-wide school-building partnership with UNICEF. It also has produced a number of important publications impacting on national policy.

A further key project is the Nelson Mandela Center for Memory and Commemoration, an innovative archive capturing the story of Mr Mandela's long walk to freedom.

Mr. Mandela is the Patron of The Nelson Mandela Foundation.

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## Building exceptional leadership capacity in Africa

The Mandela Rhodes Foundation is the newest of the Legacy Organizations, and has as its specific mission the building of exceptional leadership capacity in Africa – another key aspect of Mr. Mandela's legacy. The Foundation's signature program is the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships, launched in 2005 and tenable at African institutions of higher learning. The Foundation will be developing Mandela Rhodes Fellowships in leadership. The Mandela Rhodes Foundation is a partnership between the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Rhodes Trust, which administers the Rhodes scholarships to Oxford.

Mr. Mandela is the Patron of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation.



*'I have had a longer life than most people are granted. I have the added blessing of being in very good health, at least according to my doctors. I am confident that nobody will accuse me of selfishness if I ask to spend time, while I am still in good health, with my family, my friends, and also with myself.*

*I do not intend to hide away totally from the public, but henceforth I want to be in the position of calling you to ask whether I would be welcome, rather than being called upon to do things and participate in events. The appeal therefore is: Don't call me, I'll call you.*

*Seriously, though, my diary and my public activities will be severely and significantly reduced. This does not mean, however, that the work we have been involved in, supported and promoted, comes to an end. It has been our practice to establish organizations to do certain work and then to leave it to those organizations to get on with the job.*

*What we call the three Mandela Legacy Organizations are proof and assurance that our work will continue, perhaps in an even more focused way now that the attention shifts from the individual to the organizations which will play a major role in South Africa and Africa for many years to come.'*

– Nelson Mandela, announcing his retirement, Johannesburg, 1 June 2004

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