



Nelson Mandela  
CHILDREN'S FUND



CHANGING THE WAY SOCIETY THINKS

# MANDELA

## FOR AND AGAINST

**As Nelson Mandela turns ninety, two MYPs from London give their verdict on the great man's life ...**

### FOR

By Adam Jogee,  
MYP for Haringey

If you ask any young person anywhere in the world to name somebody they look up to and admire, the name Nelson Mandela is never far away; which says everything about him as a person and the changes he has seen through during his life.

I was lucky enough to have been a VIP guest at the 46664 music concert that was held in London to celebrate Nelson

Mandela's 90th birthday.

The concert wasn't just to shower praise on Madiba (Mandela's clan name), although that was a key part of it, more importantly, it was to raise money for the numerous charities that Madiba has given his name to; charities that highlight and seek to improve the number of African children in school, and charities that support those who suffer from the AIDS virus.

From his time as a trial lawyer in Johannesburg, to his time on Robben Island, his time as President through to his present role as international

statesman; Nelson Mandela has shown remarkable courage, commitment and dedication. The dedication with which he helped free his people from the grip of the harsh apartheid regime, the courage he showed during 27 years in jail and his full and total commitment to a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

I have been lucky enough to have met Nelson Mandela twice. On both occasions he generated such warmth and compassion that it was quite difficult to realise you were actually speaking with one of the most famous and influential people

## Nelson Mandela Timeline

**1918** - Born Rolihlahla Mandela in the small village of Mvevo on the Eastern Cape of Colonial South Africa.

**1925** - Aged seven given the name Nelson by a school teacher.

**1939** - Asked to leave university after getting involved in student politics.

**1944** - Joins African National Congress (ANC), an anti-apartheid party.

**1948** - In South Africa's first election since independence the National Party, a White Afrikaner movement, formalise the system of apartheid, introducing racial segregation across the country.

**1952** - Opened a law firm called Mandela & Tambo to help poor black South Africans access legal services.

**1956** - Arrested for treason with 150 other activists but eventually acquitted.

**1960** - ANC banned by National Party.

**1961** - Co-founded the ANC's armed wing, Spear of the Nation, initiating the ANC's armed struggle against apartheid.

**1964** - Captured after living on the run and sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island for sabotage and treason. While in prison performed hard labour in a lime quarry and studied for a law degree.

**1990** - Mandela released from prison and negotiations begin with the National Party to end apartheid.

**1994** - South Africa's first multi-racial elections. ANC wins 62% of the vote and Mandela, as ANC leader, becomes the first black President of South Africa.

**1999** - Retires from South African politics.

**2007** - Statue of Nelson Mandela erected in Parliament Square, London.

the world has ever seen.

The devastating humanitarian and political crisis in Zimbabwe is an issue which urgently needs addressing. For Mandela to truly leave a legacy to future generations, he must use his influence to urge President Mugabe to ensure a peaceful and democratic solution is found to the harrowing situation in Zimbabwe.

Nelson Mandela is a man who won't just be confined to the history books. If you ask your parents, teachers or other adults where they were or what they were doing the day Mandela was released, they could probably tell you.

His life, ideals and beliefs will continue to serve as guiding principles to generations to come. He truly is one of a kind!

## AGAINST

By Bubatunde Williams,  
DMYP for City of London

Happy birthday Nelson Mandela. Very few people know much about Nelson Mandela. Many foolishly compare him to Martin Luther King, or Mahatma Gandhi, and yet the specifics are known by few people.

Nelson Mandela, a man who dares to mention the fact that Gandhi is his inspiration, obviously did not take a leaf out of Gandhi's book. Mandela was the founder of the armed wing of an organisation called the African National Congress (ANC), what some would now call a terrorist movement. The military action by the ANC lasted from 1961 up till 1990. The ANC were responsible for so many casualties and injuries, that the figures are currently "unknown." They targeted public arenas as well as government offices.

It seems as long as terrorism is far removed from Britain there are many who will justify it, such as the Palestinian suicide bombers, and the IRA Liberation Movement, well, that was until the IRA started bombing London, and it became all too

clear that terrorism in any form was not acceptable.

There are those who claim that Nelson Mandela did what he had to, to reach "social liberation." Would the war on Iraq be justified if in five years Iraq was a stable country with a competitive economy and currency? No. So what makes Nelson Mandela's actions justifiable? Yes the great evil of Saddam Hussein has been eradicated, but the means can never justify the ends, if the means are as evil and as unwarranted as the ideology it seeks to replace.

Apartheid was evil, do not get me wrong, but the techniques that were used to bring it down, and those who supported it, were in no way comparable to the Civil Rights Movement, or Gandhi.

Read up on Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and John F. Kennedy. These were men who believed in acquiring peace through peaceful means, and followed it through at the highest cost. History often tells two tales, sometimes, one of them is fact and the other is a mere story, most choose to believe the story, as it has a happy ending of human trial and tribulation.

Are you a fan of Nelson Mandela?

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