



## **Nelson Mandela International Day**

In July, South Africa celebrates former President Nelson Mandela's birthday. 18 July has been declared Nelson Mandela International Day but as South Africans we embrace the chance to celebrate Nelson Mandela's life for the whole of July. This gives everyone the opportunity to heed the call to action for people to recognise their individual power to make an imprint and change the world around them.

A global movement for positive change begins with small actions. As each person acts, they fuel momentum toward positive change, raising awareness and expanding the reach of Mr Mandela's values – fighting injustice, helping people in need and practicing reconciliation.

### **Nelson Mandela Day Goals 2019-2029:**

- Education and Literacy

- Food and Nutrition
- Shelter
- Sanitation
- Active Citizenship

#### Background

Mr Mandela became South Africa's first democratically elected president in 1994. As a champion of reconciliation, he was instrumental in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was set up by South Africa's Government of National Unity to help deal with the atrocities of apartheid.

Before his presidency, Mandela was heavily involved in anti-apartheid activities. He served 27 years in prison, many of which were spent with other sentenced freedom fighters.

While officially retired, he continued to voice his opinion on topical humanitarian issues and campaigns globally for peace, children and the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Government calls on all South Africans to contribute to the social and economic security of Africans, by living the values of our Constitution that provides for the rights of all people living in our country and the affirms democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom for all.

**Nelson Mandela International Day** was launched in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July 2009 via unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly. <https://www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay/>

It was inspired by a call Nelson Mandela made a year earlier, for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices when he said that "it is in your hands now".

It is more than a celebration of Madiba's life and legacy; it is a global movement to honour his life's work and to change the world for the better

Event Category: Commemorative events

Website of the Nelson Mandela Foundation:

<https://www.nelsonmandela.org/content/page/mandela-day>

