

# Media Update

17 July 2019

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## United Nations

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

### NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY

18 July 2019

“On this day, we pay tribute to an extraordinary global advocate for dignity and equality, and one of the most iconic and inspirational leaders of our time. Nelson Mandela exemplified courage, compassion and commitment to freedom, peace and social justice. He lived by these principles and was prepared to sacrifice his liberty and even his life for them.

Nelson Mandela's calls for social cohesion and an end to racism are particularly relevant today, with hate speech casting a growing shadow around the world. As we work collectively for peace, stability, sustainable development and human rights for all, we would be well served to recall the example set by Nelson Mandela.

Our best tribute is found in actions. Nelson Mandela's message to the world is clear. Every one of us can step up and act for enduring change. We all have the duty to do so. On this day of reflection on Nelson Mandela's life and work, let us embrace his legacy and aspire to emulate his example.”

#### About the Day:

November 2009 - in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, UN General Assembly declares 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day".

Resolution [A/RES/64/13](#) recognizes Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in: conflict resolution; race relations; promotion and protection of human rights; reconciliation; gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups; the fight against poverty; the promotion of social justice. The resolution acknowledges his contribution to the struggle



for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

On 18 July every year, we invite you to mark Nelson Mandela International Day by making a difference in your communities. Everyone has the ability and the responsibility to change the world for the better! Mandela Day is an occasion for all to take action and inspire change.

**For more information:**

<https://www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay/index.shtml>

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