



***THE UNITED NATIONS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY TO BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG AND
THE GOETHE-INSTITUT
INVITES YOU TO THE SCREENING OF
“INVICTUS”
TO CELEBRATE "MANDELA DAY"***

About the film

The film INVICTUS, directed by Clint Eastwood, tells the inspiring and true story of how newly elected President Nelson Mandela (Morgan Freeman) joins forces with the captain of South Africa’s rugby team, Francois Pienaar (Matt Damon), to help unite their country through sport and overcome economic and racial division in the wake of apartheid.

In the film, Mandela calls upon Pienaar to lead his team to greatness, joining forces to turn their individual hopes — the president, to unite his country; the captain, to lead the nation’s team to World Cup glory — into one shared goal with the motto “One team, one country” and citing a poem that was a source of inspiration and strength to him during his years in prison. It is later revealed that the poem is “Invictus” by William Ernest Henley.



Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people, and in a way that little else does. – Nelson Mandela

The 1995 World Cup Final was, to most people around the world, little more than a thrilling rugby match. But to the people of South Africa, it was a turning point in their history— a shared experience that helped to heal the wounds of the past even as it gave new hope for the future.

(<http://invictusmovie.warnerbros.com>)





Biography

Born on July 18, 1918 in Transkei, South Africa, Nelson Mandela has devoted his life to peacefully fighting for freedom and social justice for all.

After 27 years as prisoner 46664 under the then-Apartheid government in South Africa, Mr. Mandela emerged to reconcile with his oppressors and lead the country peacefully through its transition from a 46-year era of segregation.

Mr. Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with then president Frederik Willem de Klerk in 1993. In 1994, Mr. Mandela was elected as the first president of a democratic South Africa. Over the course of the years, he has been awarded more than 60 humanitarian awards

from around the world.

Mr. Mandela's life personifies the idea that one person has the power to make a difference and leave their unique imprint on the world.

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

Mandela Day

Following the success of Nelson Mandela's – 90th Birthday celebrations in London's Hyde Park in June 2008, it was decided that there could be nothing more fitting than to celebrate Madiba's birthday each year with a day dedicated to his life's work and that of his charitable organisations and to ensure his legacy continues forever. If London represented the transition then Mandela Day, New York, July 18, 2009 represented the beginning of the realization.

What is Mandela Day?

- Mandela Day is an annual celebration of Nelson Mandela's life and a global call to action for people to recognize their individual ability to make an imprint and change the world around them.*
- Mandela Day has been created to inspire people from every corner of the world to embrace the values that have embodied Nelson Mandela's life – democracy; equality; reconciliation; diversity; responsibility; respect and freedom – for these are the values of Nelson Mandela and they are his legacy to the world.*
- Mandela Day aims to showcase the work of the Nelson Mandela charitable organisations (Nelson Mandela Foundation; Nelson Mandela Children's Fund; Mandela Rhodes Foundation) and raise monies to support their continuing work.*
- By connecting people with ways to act on Nelson Mandela's values, we aim to empower every individual to make an imprint on the world.*
- The Mandela Day campaign message is simple: Nelson Mandela has given 67 years of his life fighting for the rights of humanity. All we are asking is that everyone gives 67 minutes of their time, whether it's supporting your chosen charity or serving your local community.*
- Mandela Day is a global social movement – an umbrella idea – that does not discriminate, it's open and lets in and embraces every organization that does good, whilst enabling people to serve their community and improve their lives.*
- The Mandela Day brand icon represents Mr. Mandela's hand and the passing of the torch to each of us and our individual ability to make an imprint on the world.*
- Mandela Day is not a holiday – it is a day for all of us to opt in and show that we can all make an impact*

www.mandeladay.com





THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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MESSAGE FOR NELSON MANDELA DAY

New York, 18 July 2010

Nelson Mandela is a towering figure. He embodies the highest values of humanity, and of the United Nations. His life, his strength and his decency are an example to us all. He fought his oppressors for years. And then, he forgave them.

I am lucky enough to have met Nelson Mandela. Like so many others, I was struck by his charisma and charm. But I was most impressed by his humility. When I tried to thank him for his life's work, he replied: "It was not me." He preferred to talk about what other people had done in the struggle for human rights and dignity.

That is just one reason why Nelson Mandela is such an inspiration to millions. He was not backed by money or power. As he constantly reminds us, he is an ordinary man. But he has achieved extraordinary things.

Nelson Mandela's accomplishments came at great personal cost to himself and his family. His sacrifice not only served the people of his own nation, South Africa, but made the world a better place for all people, everywhere. Today, on the first Nelson Mandela International Day, we thank him for everything he has done for freedom, for justice and for democracy.

He showed the way. He changed the world. We are profoundly grateful.

