

The Elders troubled by UK's vote to leave the European Union

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders today expressed deep regret and dismay over the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. They respect the democratic will of the people of the UK whilst noting that the EU is a unique political alliance that has succeeded in bringing peoples and cultures closer together across a continent riven by wars that took the lives of millions.

Convened by Nelson Mandela as a body to promote peace, justice and human rights, The Elders are a group of independent global figures. Two of them, Martti Ahtisaari and Mary Robinson, served as Heads of State of EU member states.

[Kofi Annan](#), Chair of The Elders, said:

"The European Union is a success story built from the rubble of two world wars. It has ensured peace and prosperity for an entire generation of Europeans for whom war with their neighbours is unthinkable. Creating a family of nations based not just on common economic interests but on common values is unique in the world. We urge the remaining 27 states to redouble their efforts for unity, solidarity, and show the leadership that Europe so urgently needs, now more than ever."

Media enquiries

William French, Head of Communications, The Elders
Email: media@theElders.org – T +44 7795 693903

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About The Elders

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Kofi Annan](#) (Chair), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#) and [Desmond Tutu](#) are Honorary Elders.

Find out more

For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to www.theElders.org.

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