

## **The Elders to visit India with focus on girls' development and the impact of child marriage**

**Press Conference in New Delhi, 9 February 2012**

02 February 2012

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

A delegation of The Elders will visit India from 6-10 February 2012.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Chair of The Elders
- Mrs Ela Bhatt, founder of India's Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
- Dr Gro Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway
- Mrs Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland

The primary objective of the Elders' visit is to learn about the causes of child marriage in India, discuss the harmful impact of child marriage on human rights and development, and to encourage local efforts to end the practice. The Elders will meet political and business leaders, UN and NGO representatives, members of the media, and communities affected by child marriage.

It is estimated that 10 million girls under the age of 18 are married every year, representing approximately one third of all girls in the developing world. Because of its large population, India is home to an estimated one third of the world's child brides.

The Elders will visit New Delhi and Patna and will also attend a regional meeting hosted by *Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage*. [www.GirlsNotBrides.org](http://www.GirlsNotBrides.org)

### **MEDIA AVAILABILITY**

- Tuesday 7 February, 14:00-14:30 – PRESS BRIEFING– Maurya Hotel, Patna, Bihar.
- Thursday 9 February, 15:30-16:00 – PRESS CONFERENCE– Taj Ambassador Hotel, New Delhi

*Media representatives are asked to show valid ID to attend press conferences.*

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

For updated information about The Elders' schedule and media availability please contact:

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## **About The Elders**

The Elders are independent global leaders working together for peace and human rights. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are **Martti Ahtisaari, Kofi Annan, Ela Bhatt, Lakhdar Brahimi, Gro Brundtland, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Jimmy Carter, Graça Machel, Mary Robinson** and **Desmond Tutu** (Chair). **Nelson Mandela** and **Aung San Suu Kyi** are honorary Elders.

For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to [www.theElders.org](http://www.theElders.org)

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