

Ahead of World Humanitarian Summit, The Elders urge UN action to stop mass atrocities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders welcome the first [World Humanitarian Summit](#) taking place in Istanbul next week as a moment to galvanise responses to human catastrophes, notably in the host country's immediate region.

The Elders believe that the most important way to alleviate humanitarian crises is to prevent conflicts and mass atrocities in the first place. This requires timely action and the exercise of greater responsibility from the five veto-wielding Permanent Members of the UN Security Council.

They highlight that the UN Secretary-General's own [report to the summit](#) calls on the permanent members to withhold their veto power on measures addressing mass atrocities.

Failure to exercise "veto restraint", as has been called for by many UN member states and civil society, has resulted in paralysis in the international mechanisms designed to uphold peace and security.

To coincide with the Summit, The Elders have released a new [video](#), featuring contributions from [Amnesty International](#) and the [Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect](#), which argues for urgent action on veto restraint.

ENDS

Note for editors: The [video](#) features Kofi Annan, Chair of The Elders; Jimmy Carter, Elder and former President of the United States; Salil Shetty, Secretary-General of Amnesty International; Simon Adams, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect; Mary Robinson, Elder and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Martti Ahtisaari, Elder and former President of Finland; and Hina Jilani, Elder and Pakistani human rights advocate.

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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), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Desmond Tutu](#) is an honorary Elder.

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

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