

## The Elders mourn the death of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela

**LONDON, 3 April 2018**

The Elders express their condolences at the death of South African anti-Apartheid campaigner and former first lady Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela became an international symbol of resistance to apartheid following the imprisonment of her then husband, Nelson Mandela.

Praised for her courageous defiance during a brutal period of state terror in apartheid South Africa, her resolve – even in the most difficult personal circumstances – inspired many to continue.

**Kofi Annan**, Chair of The Elders said,

*“Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was a voice of defiance who refused to be silenced. Her life was a testament to both the strengths and weaknesses of the human character. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela’s courage and resilience inspired a generation of activists, both in South Africa and around the world.”*

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### Media enquiries

Jenny Yates, Programme Director, The Elders  
T: +44 7917 765912  
[Jenny.Yates@theElders.org](mailto:Jenny.Yates@theElders.org)

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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), [Ban Ki-moon](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Hina Jilani](#), [Ricardo Lagos](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

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

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### **Find out more**

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