Nelson Mandela International Day 2018 marks 100 years since the birth of Nelson Mandela. This is an opportunity to reflect on his life and legacy, and to follow his call to “make of the world a better place.”
Nelson Mandela is seen as one of history's most inspirational figures. He spent 67 years of his life striving to achieve human rights and a better future for everyone in South Africa.
Apartheid is an Afrikaans word meaning “the state of being apart.”

When Nelson Mandela was a young man, white and black people in South Africa were segregated from each other as part of the Apartheid system.
Nelson Mandela didn’t agree with apartheid. He believed that everybody should be treated equally. Everyone should have access to the same healthcare, education, access to food and homes.
Speaking out against the government (and apartheid) at this time was dangerous. In 1956, Mandela and 155 other people were arrested for treason. After a trial lasting five years, he was set free in 1961.

https://www.bbc.com/education/clips/zb93cdm
A year later, Mandela was accused of sabotage and plotting to overthrow the government. He was arrested and in 1964 was sentenced to life in prison on Robben Island. During his time in prison, photos of him were banned and it was even illegal to quote him in public.
During his time in prison, people in South Africa (and across the world) campaigned for his release.
In 1990, South Africa's new President FW de Klerk set Nelson Mandela free.

He had spent 27 years in prison, 18 of those on Robben Island.

Mandela called on all South Africans to work together in peace.
In 1991, Mandela became leader of the ANC. In the 1994 elections, all black people in South Africa were able to vote for the first time. The ANC won the election and in May 1994 Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black president.
The Mandela 8 organisation is working with the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Mandela family to create a memorial to Nelson Mandela in Princes Park, Liverpool 8.

The memorial will act as a unique performance, conversation and contemplation space supporting community development and cohesion through a series of creative commissions and collaborations with widespread community and educational engagement and participation.
The monument will sit on the island in the lake in Princes Park in recognition of the time that Mandela spent on Robben Island.
An artist’s impression of what the memorial will look like

The island will be called Mandela Island and the bridge will be called Freedom Bridge.
Nelson Mandela followed three rules throughout his life, which he did at great personal sacrifice:

Free yourself
Free others
Serve every day

He spent 67 years serving the community of South Africa.
The Nelson Mandela Foundation and Mandela 8 group are also asking that the people get involved with Mandela day by devoting 67 minutes of their time to helping to make the world or their local environment a better place.
Everyone has the ability and the responsibility to change the world for the better. No matter how small your action, Mandela Day is about changing the world for the better, just as Nelson Mandela did every day.
How will you make a difference?
“What good deed are you going to do today for someone that will make their life better”
Dr Makaziwe Mandela

For ideas of how to get involved go to:
www.mandela8.org.uk
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