



ESTABLISHED
DELHI, INDIA

2027

— NELSON MANDELA —

GLOBAL FESTIVAL

INSPIRATION FOR GENERATIONS



HOUSE OF
COMMONS
LEGACY BOOK
GALA DINNER



HUMANITARIAN
AWARDS



NELSON MANDELA
MUSEUM
EXHIBITION



YOUTH VOICES.
GLOBAL
CHANGE.



MUSIC. CULTURE.
DIALOGUE.
UNITY.

ONE LEGACY. MANY VOICES. ONE FUTURE.

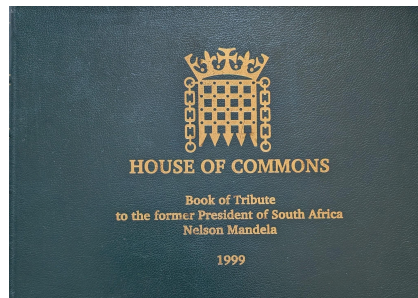
UNITING NATIONS

INSPIRING LEADERS

EMPOWERING GENERATIONS



| mandelaglobalfestival.org



The Nelson Mandela Global Festival

A Global Celebration of Leadership, Legacy and Humanity

The **Nelson Mandela Global Festival** is an ambitious international initiative that will bring together governments, businesses, educational institutions, museums, cultural organisations, charitable foundations and community leaders to celebrate the enduring legacy of one of history's greatest humanitarians

Launching in **New Delhi, India**, the Festival is envisioned as a two-week international programme celebrating Nelson Mandela's life through education, culture, leadership and humanitarian action. India, whose own history profoundly influenced Mandela's philosophy through the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, is the natural home for this inaugural global celebration.

The Festival will feature a programme of prestigious events, including the proposed **Nelson Mandela Museum Exhibition** from South Africa (subject to agreement), the launch in India of the **Letter to Nelson Mandela Initiative** for students aged **9–18**, leadership forums, cultural performances, educational programmes and community engagement activities.

The Festival will culminate in the **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book Gala Dinner & Humanitarian Awards**, proposed to be held at the iconic **Taj Palace, New Delhi**,

welcoming approximately **700 distinguished guests**, including senior political leaders, diplomats, business executives, philanthropists, educators and cultural ambassadors from India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and around the world.

Founded by **Nic Careem (Executive Director of the Festival)** and creator of the **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book**, the Festival builds upon more than twenty-seven years of work dedicated to preserving and promoting Nelson Mandela's legacy

through education, international collaboration and humanitarian initiatives. The project is being developed with the support of **Lata Gullapalli**, Founder and Chairperson of **The Savoir Faire Company**, together with an expanding network of prospective strategic partners from government, business and civil society. More than an event, the Festival is designed to become a permanent international movement strengthening relationships between **India, South Africa and the United Kingdom**, inspiring future generations through

Nelson Mandela's values of leadership, reconciliation and service, and creating a lasting charitable legacy through support for children's organisations in India.

This is an invitation to become a **Founding Partner** in a landmark international initiative that seeks not only to honour Nelson Mandela's extraordinary life but to ensure that his vision continues to inspire generations to come.

One Legacy. Many Voices. One Future.

Executive Summary

A Personal Message

Nic Careem

Founder of the House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book
Founder & Principal Organiser – The Nelson Mandela Global Festival

People often ask me why, after almost three decades of working to preserve Nelson Mandela's legacy, I have chosen to launch something as ambitious as the Nelson Mandela Global Festival.

The answer is actually quite simple.

I believe Nelson Mandela's greatest legacy is not what he achieved during his lifetime, but what he continues to inspire in all of us.

For more than twenty-seven years, I have had the privilege of meeting remarkable people whose lives have been touched by Mandela's courage, humility and belief in humanity. During that time I created the **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book**, never imagining that it would grow into one of the most enduring tributes to one of the world's greatest leaders.

As the years have passed, I have come to realise that preserving a legacy is about much more than collecting memories.

It is about ensuring that every new generation discovers why that legacy still matters.

That belief has inspired everything I have done throughout my career.

Whether working alongside governments, parliamentarians, educators, Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss, business leaders, artists or community organisations, I have always tried to create projects that bring people together rather than divide them.

I have seen first-hand that when people unite behind a shared purpose, remarkable things can happen.

That experience has led me to this moment.

The **Nelson Mandela Global Festival** is not simply another event.

It is the natural continuation of a journey that began almost three decades ago with a single book and a simple idea.

Today that vision has grown into an international initiative that I believe can become one of the world's leading platforms for leadership, education, cultural diplomacy and humanitarian collaboration. There could be no more appropriate place to begin than India.

India occupies a special place in Nelson Mandela's story. The influence of Mahatma Gandhi helped shape Mandela's philosophy, while India's steadfast support for the struggle against apartheid created a bond between our nations that continues today.

Launching this Festival in New Delhi is therefore both symbolic and deeply meaningful.

Our ambition is to bring together leaders from government, business, education, culture and philanthropy from India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and beyond. Over two weeks, the Festival will celebrate Nelson Mandela's life through education, dialogue, culture and humanitarian action, culminating in the **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book Gala Dinner & Humanitarian Awards**.

Subject to agreement, we also hope to welcome a travelling exhibition from the **Nelson Mandela Museum** in South Africa, giving visitors a unique opportunity to experience Mandela's life and legacy in an immersive and educational setting.

Most importantly, this Festival is about creating opportunities.

Opportunities for young people.

Opportunities for international collaboration.

Opportunities to strengthen friendships between nations.

And opportunities to support children's charities in India, ensuring that the Festival leaves a genuine and lasting social legacy.

I have never believed that meaningful projects are built by one individual.

They are built through partnership.

That is why I am so grateful for the support of **Lata Gullapalli**, Founder and Chairperson of **The Savoir Faire Company**, together with the many individuals and organisations who are already helping shape this vision. We are also engaging with prospective corporate, philanthropic and institutional partners who share our belief that Nelson Mandela's values remain as relevant today as ever.

This proposal is not simply an invitation to sponsor an event. It is an invitation to help build something that will outlive all of us. A movement that celebrates leadership over division.

Education over ignorance. Compassion over hatred. Hope over fear.

Nelson Mandela once said:

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

Those words have guided me throughout much of my career.

They inspire this Festival.

And they remind me that every worthwhile journey begins with people who are prepared to believe that something extraordinary is possible.

I hope you will join us as a Founding Partner in creating a legacy that will continue to educate, inspire and unite future generations.

Nic Careem

Founder/Curator of the House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book

Founder & Principal Organiser

The Nelson Mandela Global Festival

The Vision

Building a Global Legacy Inspired by Nelson Mandela

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

— **Nelson Mandela**

Every generation inherits the responsibility of protecting the values that define our humanity.

Few individuals have left a legacy as profound or as universal as **President Nelson Mandela**. His life demonstrated that courage is measured not by power, but by character; that reconciliation is stronger than revenge; and that education remains the most powerful force for changing the world.

His story belongs not only to South Africa, but to all humanity.

The **Nelson Mandela Global Festival** has been created to ensure that his legacy remains a living force for positive change.

This is not simply another international festival.

Nor is it only a celebration of one remarkable life.

It is a long-term vision to create one of the world's leading international platforms for leadership, education, cultural diplomacy and humanitarian collaboration—a movement inspired by Mandela's enduring belief that ordinary people, working together, can achieve extraordinary things.

For almost three decades, the **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book** has brought together leaders from every walk of life to honour President Mandela. The Festival is the natural evolution of that journey.

It transforms a unique historical legacy into a living international movement that encourages governments, businesses, educational institutions, museums, charitable organisations and communities to work together in pursuit of a common purpose.

That purpose is simple. To inspire. To educate. To unite. To create opportunities for future generations. Today the world faces many of the same challenges that Nelson Mandela devoted his life to overcoming. Communities remain divided by conflict, prejudice and misunderstanding.

Millions of young people are searching for leaders who demonstrate integrity, compassion and moral courage.

Societies increasingly recognise that no nation can solve today's challenges in isolation.

The Nelson Mandela Global Festival has therefore been conceived as a positive response to those realities.

It provides a platform where countries collaborate rather than compete.

Where education replaces ignorance.

Where dialogue replaces division.

Where culture becomes a bridge between nations.

Where philanthropy creates lasting opportunities for those most in need.

Launching the inaugural Festival in **New Delhi** is both symbolic and strategic.

India occupies a unique place in Nelson Mandela's story. The influence of **Mahatma Gandhi** helped shape Mandela's philosophy of peaceful resistance, while India's unwavering support during the struggle against apartheid created an enduring friendship between the peoples of India and South Africa.

The Festival will celebrate that shared history while opening a new chapter of international cooperation between **India, South Africa and the United Kingdom**.

Over time, the Festival will grow beyond a single event.

It will become an international platform for leadership summits, educational programmes, youth exchanges, cultural celebrations, museum collaborations, humanitarian initiatives and global partnerships.

Each Festival will leave a tangible legacy through education, charitable giving and long-term international collaboration.

Our ambition is not to organise an annual event.

Our ambition is to establish an international movement that continues to grow stronger with every partnership, every educational initiative and every young person inspired by Nelson Mandela's example.

This vision belongs to no single individual.

It belongs to everyone who believes that leadership should be measured by service, that reconciliation is stronger than division and that investing in future generations is the greatest legacy any of us can leave behind.

The Nelson Mandela Global Festival is an invitation to governments, businesses, universities, museums, charitable foundations and cultural institutions to become part of that journey. Together, we have an opportunity to create something that extends far beyond one Festival. Together, we can build an enduring international legacy that honours Nelson Mandela not simply by remembering his life—but by continuing his work.

Because the greatest tribute we can pay to Nelson Mandela is not to admire his legacy.

It is to live it.

A Festival with a Purpose

Unlike many international events that conclude when the final guest departs, the Nelson Mandela Global Festival has been designed to leave a lasting legacy.

Its success will not be measured solely by attendance, media coverage or fundraising.

It will be measured by:

- Young people are inspired to become ethical leaders.
- New partnerships between nations and institutions.
- Educational programmes that continue beyond the Festival.
- Cultural exchanges that deepen international understanding.
- Charitable projects that improve the lives of children and communities.
- A stronger appreciation of Nelson Mandela's enduring contribution to humanity.

Every Festival will seek to create tangible outcomes that extend well beyond the closing ceremony.

Why India?

The decision to launch the inaugural Festival in India is both symbolic and strategic.

India occupies a unique place in the story of Nelson Mandela.

Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance profoundly influenced Mandela's thinking and leadership, while India's steadfast support for the struggle against apartheid forged a lasting bond between the people of India and South Africa.

Launching the Festival in New Delhi recognises that shared history while opening a new chapter of collaboration between **India, South Africa and the United Kingdom**.

It also provides an opportunity to engage one of the world's largest democracies in a global movement that promotes education, leadership and international cooperation.

From a Single Festival to a Global Movement

The inaugural Festival is intended to be the foundation of a much broader international programme.

Future editions are envisaged in major cities around the world, each celebrating Nelson Mandela's universal values while reflecting the culture, heritage and aspirations of the host nation.

Over time, the Festival will seek to develop:

- International leadership summits.
- Youth ambassador programmes.
- Educational exchanges between schools and universities.
- Cultural festivals celebrating diversity and inclusion.
- Travelling exhibitions exploring Nelson Mandela's life and legacy.
- A digital global Nelson Mandela Legacy Book, inviting people from every continent to contribute messages inspired by Mandela's values.
- Ongoing charitable initiatives supporting education and young people.

This vision is not about creating another annual event.

It is about establishing an international movement that grows stronger with every partnership, every educational initiative and every generation it inspires.

A Shared Responsibility

The Nelson Mandela Global Festival belongs to no single organisation, government or individual.

Its success depends on collaboration.

Governments, businesses, educational institutions, museums, philanthropic foundations, cultural organisations and community leaders each have a role to play in ensuring that Nelson Mandela's legacy continues to inspire positive change.

The Festival offers a platform through which these partners can work together to promote peace, education, responsible leadership and international understanding.

By becoming involved at the beginning of this journey, Founding Partners have the opportunity to help shape an initiative that has the potential to influence generations to come.

Our Commitment

The Festival is guided by a simple commitment:

To honour Nelson Mandela not only through remembrance, but through action.

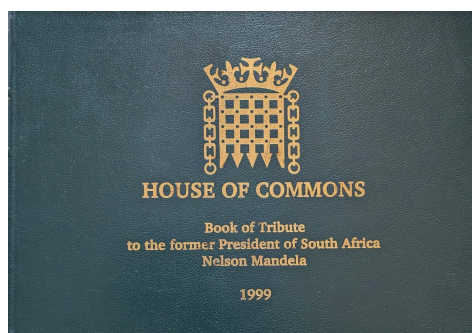
Every programme, every partnership and every charitable initiative will seek to reflect the values that defined his life:

- Integrity.
- Courage.
- Compassion.
- Reconciliation.
- Education.
- Service.
- Respect for human dignity.
- Hope for future generations.

These are not only the values that shaped Nelson Mandela's life.

They are the values that will shape the future of the Nelson Mandela Global Festival.

Together, we have an opportunity to create something that extends beyond a single event—an international legacy that will continue to educate, inspire and unite people around the world for decades to come.



The House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book

Twenty-Seven Years of Preserving a Global Legacy

"History is made by those who choose to build bridges rather than walls."

At the heart of the Nelson Mandela Global Festival lies a remarkable project that has quietly grown over more than twenty-seven years into one of the most distinctive tributes ever created in honour of President Nelson Mandela.

The **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book** is far more than a commemorative publication.

It is a living historical record.

It is a symbol of unity.

It is a testament to the enduring influence of one of the greatest leaders of modern times.

Conceived by **Nic Careem**, the Legacy Book was created with a simple but powerful purpose—to provide a permanent place where leaders and individuals from every walk of life could express their admiration for Nelson Mandela and reflect upon the values that transformed South Africa and inspired the world.

Over nearly three decades that vision has continued to grow.

Today, the Legacy Book represents a unique archive of personal reflections from distinguished figures across politics, diplomacy, business, education, sport, entertainment, literature, broadcasting, faith communities and civil society.

Each contribution tells its own story.

Collectively they tell the story of Nelson Mandela's influence on humanity.

A Living Historical Record

Unlike a conventional guest book or commemorative publication, the House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book has evolved over time.

It continues to grow as new contributors add their voices to an extraordinary collection of reflections inspired by Mandela's life and leadership.

The Book preserves not only signatures but also deeply personal messages about courage, reconciliation, justice, forgiveness and hope.

Each page represents a moment in history.

Each message reflects the universal respect that Nelson Mandela continues to command across cultures, faiths and political traditions.

Together, these contributions create an invaluable historical record for future generations.

The Legacy Book demonstrates that Mandela's influence extends far beyond South Africa.

It belongs to the world.

Symbolism and Significance

There is a remarkable symbolism at the heart of the Legacy Book.

Nelson Mandela spent **twenty-seven years imprisoned** for his commitment to justice and equality.

Today, the House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book has itself reached approximately **twenty-seven years** since its creation.

This parallel is deeply significant.

It reminds us that while Mandela sacrificed twenty-seven years of his freedom, the decades that followed have been devoted by countless individuals to ensuring that his legacy continues to educate and inspire.

The Legacy Book therefore stands not only as a tribute to Mandela's life but also as a symbol of the continuing responsibility shared by all who believe in his values.

A Platform for Education

Throughout its history, the Legacy Book has served an educational purpose.

It has encouraged conversations about leadership, democracy, equality, human rights and reconciliation.

It has inspired discussions within schools, universities, community organisations and public institutions.

Its greatest strength lies in its ability to connect generations.

Young people reading the reflections of distinguished leaders gain insight into the qualities that made Nelson Mandela one of history's most respected statesmen.

The Book reminds us that leadership is built upon integrity, humility, resilience and service.

These lessons remain as relevant today as they were during Mandela's lifetime.

From Legacy Book to Global Movement

The Nelson Mandela Global Festival represents the natural evolution of the House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book.

What began as a single volume has now inspired the creation of a global initiative.

The Festival will bring the values contained within the Book to life through:

- International educational programmes.
- Leadership forums.
- Museum exhibitions.
- Cultural celebrations.
- Youth engagement initiatives.
- International partnerships.
- Charitable fundraising.
- Community dialogue.

The Legacy Book will remain at the centre of every Festival, reminding participants that the initiative is rooted in nearly three decades of commitment to preserving Nelson Mandela's legacy.

It provides the Festival with authenticity, continuity and historical depth.

Looking Towards the Future

The vision for the Legacy Book continues to evolve.

Future plans include the development of a **Digital Nelson Mandela Global Legacy Book**, creating an opportunity for individuals, schools, universities and organisations from around the world to contribute their own reflections and commitments inspired by Nelson Mandela.

This digital archive would become a permanent global record of Mandela's continuing influence, accessible to future generations and linked to educational programmes associated with the Festival.

Alongside travelling exhibitions, leadership forums and international cultural celebrations, it would ensure that the Legacy Book remains a living, growing tribute rather than a historical artefact.

The Foundation of the Festival

Every great international initiative is built upon a story.

The story of the Nelson Mandela Global Festival begins with the House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book.

It is the foundation upon which the Festival has been conceived.

It provides the historical credibility, the moral purpose and the emotional connection that distinguishes this initiative from any other celebration of Nelson Mandela's life.

The Book demonstrates that preserving a legacy is not simply about remembering history.

It is about creating opportunities for future generations to learn from it.

As the Festival grows across the world, the House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book will remain its enduring symbol—an ever-growing testament to the power of leadership, reconciliation and hope.

It reminds us that while one individual changed the course of history, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that his legacy continues to inspire the generations that follow.

About the Founder and Founding Partners

Nic Careem

Founder of the House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book

Founder & Principal Organiser – The Nelson Mandela Global Festival and House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book Gala Dinner & Humanitarian Awards.

Every significant international initiative begins with an individual who believes that one idea can make a lasting difference.

For more than twenty-seven years, **Nic Careem** has dedicated his work to preserving and promoting the legacy of President Nelson Mandela through education, dialogue and international collaboration.

An **award-winning social entrepreneur, philanthropist and anti-hate campaigner**, Nic has devoted much of his career to creating initiatives that bring together governments, parliamentarians, educators, business leaders, charitable organisations and communities around shared humanitarian values.

His work is founded on a simple belief: that education, understanding and collaboration remain among the most powerful tools for building stronger societies.

The House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book

In the late 1990s, Nic Careem conceived the idea of creating a permanent tribute to President Nelson Mandela that would continue to grow over time.

The result was the **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book**, an ambitious initiative that has developed over more than twenty-seven years into a unique historical collection of handwritten reflections from distinguished figures representing politics, diplomacy, business, education, sport, entertainment, faith communities and civil society.

The Book was never intended simply as a commemorative publication.

It was designed to become a living archive that reflects Nelson Mandela's continuing influence across generations and around the world.

Today it forms the historical and symbolic foundation of the proposed Nelson Mandela Global Festival.

A Career Dedicated to Building Bridges

Throughout his career, Nic has sought to create projects that connect people across cultures, faiths and national boundaries.

His initiatives have encouraged collaboration between governments, educational institutions, businesses, charities and community organisations, demonstrating how dialogue and shared purpose can create lasting partnerships.

He has organised and supported internationally focused events and initiatives involving recognised institutions, including the United Nations, the UK Parliament and the European Parliament, bringing together leaders from different sectors to discuss education, leadership, community cohesion and social responsibility.

His work reflects Nelson Mandela's belief that meaningful change is achieved not by acting alone but by building partnerships based on trust and mutual respect.

Championing Education and Challenging Hatred

A defining feature of Nic Careem's work has been his commitment to combating hatred and promoting understanding through education.

He has worked alongside **Eva Schloss**, Holocaust survivor, author and stepsister of Anne Frank, supporting initiatives that encourage young people to reject racism, antisemitism, discrimination and intolerance. His support for educational programmes associated with the **Anne Frank Trust UK** reflects a long-standing belief that education remains one of the most effective ways to challenge prejudice and inspire responsible citizenship.

These initiatives share a common philosophy with Nelson Mandela's own life—that reconciliation begins with understanding, and that lasting peace is built through education rather than division.

The Nelson Mandela Global Festival

Today, Nic Careem is leading the development of the **Nelson Mandela Global Festival**, an ambitious international initiative designed to unite governments, businesses, universities, museums, charitable organisations and communities through Nelson Mandela's enduring values.

The Festival represents the natural evolution of nearly three decades of work on the House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book.

As part of this vision, Nic is currently in discussion with the principals of the **Nelson Mandela Museum** in South Africa regarding the possibility of bringing a travelling exhibition to New Delhi as part of the inaugural Festival, subject to agreement. Committed to creating a lasting legacy inspired by Nelson Mandela.

Looking to the Future

For Nic Careem, the Delhi Festival is only the beginning.

His long-term vision is to establish the Nelson Mandela Global Festival as one of the world's leading international platforms for leadership, education, cultural diplomacy and philanthropy.

Future editions of the Festival will seek to connect nations through museum collaborations, educational programmes, youth leadership initiatives, cultural exchange and charitable partnerships.

In doing so, the Festival will continue the work that has defined Nic Careem's journey for more than twenty-seven years: bringing people together, preserving Nelson Mandela's legacy and inspiring future generations to build a more compassionate, inclusive and hopeful world.

Lata Gullapalli

Lata Gullapalli is an entrepreneur, business leader and strategic partnership specialist with extensive experience in connecting organisations, businesses and leaders across sectors. She is the **Founder and Chairperson of The Savoir Faire Company**, a platform dedicated to fostering collaboration, innovation and meaningful business relationships.

Throughout her career, Lata has built a strong reputation for bringing together stakeholders from the corporate, cultural and philanthropic communities to develop initiatives that create long-term social and economic value. Her work focuses on building trusted relationships, facilitating international collaboration and supporting projects that deliver lasting impact.

As a strategic supporter of the **Nelson Mandela Global Festival**, Lata Gullapalli is working alongside Founder and Principal Organiser **Nic Careem** to engage leading organisations, government stakeholders, charitable foundations and corporate partners in India and internationally. Her expertise in partnership development and stakeholder engagement is helping to establish the Festival as a world-class platform for education, cultural diplomacy, philanthropy and international cooperation.

Why I Believe We Can Deliver This Vision in Eight Months

"It all seems impossible until it's done" Nelson Mandela

A Personal Reflection

By Nic Careem

Founder & Principal Organiser

The Nelson Mandela Global Festival

When people first hear about the vision for the Nelson Mandela Global Festival, their reaction is often one of excitement, quickly followed by a very practical question:

"Can a project of this scale really be delivered in just eight months?"

It is a fair question.

The Festival is ambitious. It proposes bringing together governments, business leaders, cultural institutions, museums, universities, charitable organisations and communities from India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and beyond. It includes the vision of a two-week international festival, educational programmes, a possible travelling exhibition from the Nelson Mandela Museum, a prestigious Gala Dinner and Humanitarian Awards, and the launch of what we hope will become a lasting global movement inspired by Nelson Mandela.

On paper, it is a significant undertaking.

But I have learned throughout my career that extraordinary projects are rarely achieved by thinking small.

They are achieved by bringing together the right people around a shared purpose.

For more than twenty-seven years, that has been the focus of my work.

I have never measured success simply by the size of an event or the profile of those attending it.

Success has always been about creating initiatives that leave a lasting legacy—projects that continue to educate, inspire and bring people together long after the event itself has ended.

Over the years I have been privileged to work with world leaders, governments, parliamentarians, educators, artists, business leaders and charitable organisations to develop initiatives that many believed would be impossible.

I have organised major international events connected with the United Nations, the British Parliament and the European Parliament. I have worked alongside international figures including former United Nations Secretary-General **Kofi Annan**, former Commonwealth Secretary-General **Chief Emeka Anyaoku**, and senior political leaders from the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa, Asia and the United States.

Those experiences taught me an invaluable lesson.

Large projects are never delivered by one person.

They are delivered through partnerships built on trust, shared values and a clear vision.

That philosophy has guided my work for nearly three decades.

One of the proudest moments of my career was helping inspire one of the first major public celebrations of Nelson Mandela in London's Trafalgar Square. More than 30,000 people came together to celebrate an extraordinary man whose message of reconciliation had transformed the world. Seeing President Nelson Mandela and Prime Minister Tony Blair share that historic occasion reinforced my belief in the power of bringing people together around a positive purpose.

More recently, I had the privilege of creating and project managing the National COVID Memorial honouring the courageous NHS and care workers who lost their lives during the pandemic while trying to save others. Working alongside former British Government Business Minister Dean Russell, we raised almost £300,000 to commission a permanent memorial that now stands in the grounds of a major London hospital. That project demonstrated what can be achieved when government, business and communities unite behind a meaningful cause.

Another chapter of my journey has been dedicated to Holocaust education.

Working closely with Eva Schloss, Holocaust survivor and the stepsister of Anne Frank, I have supported educational initiatives that encourage young people to challenge hatred and intolerance. Helping bring the Anne Frank travelling exhibition into prisons, where young offenders became exhibition guides, remains one of the most rewarding projects of my career. I also had the privilege of directing and producing an award-winning stage production about the children of the Holocaust, using theatre as a powerful educational tool to help new generations understand where hatred can lead if left unchallenged.

Most recently, during Nelson Mandela Week, I worked with the South African Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the South African High Commission and the University of East London to help deliver an exhibition by the renowned South African artist John Meyer. Once again, it demonstrated that when organisations share a common vision, meaningful international projects can be delivered successfully within demanding timescales.

Today, I am also Executive Producer of the forthcoming feature film *Bollyver*, an Indian adaptation inspired by Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. I have pledged to donate 50% of my

personal stake in the film to initiatives supporting vulnerable children in India because I believe every creative endeavour should leave a positive social legacy.

When I look back across these experiences, I do not see a series of unrelated projects.

I see one continuous journey.

A journey dedicated to education.

A journey dedicated to remembrance.

A journey dedicated to building bridges between communities and nations.

The Nelson Mandela Global Festival is not the beginning of that journey.

It is its natural evolution.

That is why I believe we can deliver this Festival in eight months.

We are not starting from zero.

We are building upon decades of relationships, experience and trust.

We already have conversations taking place with partners in India, South Africa and the United Kingdom. We have a compelling vision, a proven track record of delivering meaningful projects and a growing network of individuals who believe in the power of Nelson Mandela's legacy to inspire positive change.

The challenge before us is undoubtedly significant. But history has shown that the most meaningful achievements often begin with people who are prepared to believe that something extraordinary is possible.

Nelson Mandela expressed that truth more simply and more powerfully than anyone:

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

Those words have inspired me throughout much of my career.

They inspire this Festival. And they remind us that every great achievement begins with the courage to take the first step.

I do not underestimate the scale of what lies ahead.

But I have complete confidence in the strength of our vision, the quality of the partnerships we are building and the commitment of those who choose to join us.

Together, we have an opportunity not simply to organise an international Festival.

We have an opportunity to create a lasting global legacy worthy of Nelson Mandela's name.

That is a responsibility I embrace with humility.



Mr Nic Careem
Founder and Director
House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book
Letter to Nelson Mandela Competition
33 Falkland Rd, Kentish Town, London, NW5 2PU
By Email: nic.careem56@gmail.com

27 July 2026

Dear Mr Careem

Hosting of the Exhibition of Nelson Mandela John Meyer Paintings at the Between the People Gallery, University of East London

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for your role in the successful hosting of the John Meyer Mandela Paintings by the South African High Commission, in conjunction with the South African Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC) at the University of East London's Between the People Gallery, in commemoration of the legacy of Nelson Mandela and the shared history of South Africa and the United Kingdom.

I am deeply thankful to you for facilitating our initial contact with the University, which led to the University's generous offer to host the exhibition at no cost. I commend your excellent organisation of the VIP Opening Night, which was also attended by our South African Ministers of Sports, Arts and Culture and Tourism, Gayton McKenzie and Patricia de Lille.

I am cognisant that you have always been deeply passionate about ensuring Madiba's legacy is kept alive for future generations, and it was entirely fitting that the opening night programme included a tribute to Nelson Mandela through special readings from the *House of Commons Book of Tribute to Nelson Mandela*, which you initiated in 1999 to mark Mandela's retirement.

Your exceptional organisation and commitment, provided the perfect stage to celebrate the spirit of Nelson Mandela and commemorate not only his legacy, but also three watershed national milestones in South Africa's history, these being: the 30th anniversary of the South African Constitution of 1996; the 50th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising of 1976 and the 70th Anniversary of the Women's March of 1956.

We look forward to continuing the close relations as we work together to keep alive the legacy of Madiba and the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo
High Commissioner of South Africa to the United Kingdom

South African High Commission South Africa House Trafalgar Square London WC2N 5DP

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7451 7124/5

Potential Corporate & Strategic Partners

Building a Global Coalition for Leadership, Education and Humanitarian Impact

The **Nelson Mandela Global Festival** seeks to establish a world-class coalition of corporate, philanthropic and institutional partners committed to advancing education, leadership, cultural diplomacy and humanitarian initiatives inspired by the values of President Nelson Mandela.

The organisers intend to engage leading organisations from India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the international business community whose commitment to innovation, sustainability, education and social impact aligns with the vision of the Festival

In the coming weeks we will be announcing the names of patrons and partners supporting our mission.

The House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book Gala Dinner & Humanitarian Awards

An Evening That Celebrates the Very Best of Humanity

The closing evening of the inaugural **Nelson Mandela Global Festival** will be much more than a Gala Dinner.

It will be a celebration of leadership, compassion, courage and service—the very qualities that defined the life of President Nelson Mandela.

Our vision is to create an occasion that becomes recognised internationally as one of the world's leading humanitarian gatherings, bringing together exceptional individuals from government, business, diplomacy, education, culture and civil society to celebrate those whose work has made a genuine difference to the lives of others.

Subject to final agreement, it is proposed that this prestigious occasion will be hosted at the magnificent **Taj Palace, New Delhi**, one of India's most distinguished international hotels and a venue synonymous with excellence, hospitality and state occasions.

The Gala Dinner is expected to welcome approximately **700 invited guests**, representing India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the wider international community.

Among those invited will be Heads of Government, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, business leaders, philanthropists, cultural ambassadors, educators, humanitarian organisations, international institutions and distinguished guests whose lives and work reflect the enduring values of Nelson Mandela.

The evening will represent the culmination of two weeks of celebration, education and international collaboration.

Guests will have the opportunity to experience what we hope will be a unique programme of events, including, subject to agreement, a special exhibition developed in partnership with the **Nelson Mandela Museum** in South Africa, leadership discussions, educational initiatives, cultural performances and community engagement activities before gathering for this landmark celebration.

At the heart of the evening will be the **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book**—a project that has grown over more than twenty-seven years into a remarkable international tribute to one of history's greatest leaders.

The Gala Dinner represents the next chapter in that journey. It is where nearly three decades of preserving Nelson Mandela's legacy evolves into an international movement dedicated to inspiring future generations.

The House of Commons Mandela Legacy Book **Humanitarian Awards** will recognise individuals and organisations whose work demonstrates exceptional leadership, compassion and service to humanity.

These awards are not intended simply to celebrate success.

They will honour people whose actions have improved lives, strengthened communities, promoted education, advanced social justice and inspired hope.

In many respects, they will celebrate those who continue to live the values that Nelson Mandela represented throughout his extraordinary life.

Equally important, the Gala Dinner will create a lasting humanitarian legacy.

Funds raised during the evening will support children's charities in India, ensuring that the Festival leaves a tangible and meaningful impact long after the final guest has departed.

This evening represents something much bigger than a prestigious international event.

It represents the coming together of friendships that have been built over many years across governments, businesses, charities and communities.

It represents a belief that leadership is ultimately about service.

It represents confidence that nations can achieve more by working together than by working alone.

Most importantly, it demonstrates that Nelson Mandela's legacy is not confined to history.

It continues to inspire people from every continent to build a more compassionate, inclusive and hopeful world.

The ambition is that, in the years ahead, world leaders, business leaders, philanthropists, artists and humanitarian organisations will regard an invitation to the **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book Gala Dinner & Humanitarian Awards** as an opportunity to be part of something truly meaningful.

Not simply an evening of celebration. But an evening that inspires action. An evening that creates partnerships. An evening that changes lives.

And an evening that reminds us all that the greatest legacy any of us can leave is not measured by what we achieve for ourselves, but by what we enable others to achieve.

If, at the end of that evening, our guests leave believing they have become part of something that will continue to make a difference for generations to come, then we will have honoured Nelson Mandela in the most meaningful way possible.

The Nelson Mandela Museum Exhibition

Bringing the Legacy of Nelson Mandela to the Heart of New Delhi

One of the defining features of the inaugural **Nelson Mandela Global Festival** will be the proposed **Nelson Mandela Museum Exhibition**, developed in collaboration with the **Nelson Mandela Museum** in South Africa, subject to final agreement.

The exhibition is envisioned as the educational and cultural centrepiece of the Festival, providing visitors with a rare opportunity to experience the life, leadership and enduring legacy of President Nelson Mandela through a world-class exhibition presented in India for the first time.

Nic Careem is currently in discussion with the leadership of the **Nelson Mandela Museum** regarding the possibility of bringing a specially curated travelling exhibition to New Delhi as part of this landmark international initiative.

Should these discussions be successfully concluded, the exhibition will be presented over a two-week period at one of **New Delhi's most prestigious shopping and lifestyle destinations**, prominently situated on **Nelson Mandela Road**—a location that carries both symbolic and practical significance.

Every day, thousands of people pass along Nelson Mandela Road. During the Festival, it is our vision that they will also have the opportunity to discover the remarkable story of the man whose name the road proudly bears.

The exhibition will invite visitors on a journey through Nelson Mandela's extraordinary life from his early years and the struggle against apartheid, through his twenty-seven years of imprisonment, to his emergence as South Africa's first democratically elected President and one of the world's most respected champions of peace, reconciliation and human dignity.

Through historic photographs, artefacts, multimedia presentations and educational displays, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of Mandela's courage, resilience and unwavering belief in justice.

More importantly, the exhibition will explore the values that continue to define his legacy today: forgiveness, reconciliation, equality, education, service and hope.

The exhibition is intended to be accessible not only to invited delegates but also to the wider public, including schools, universities, families, community organisations and visitors from across India and abroad. Special educational visits and guided tours will be encouraged, giving young people the opportunity to engage with one of history's greatest leaders in an inspiring and interactive environment.

The exhibition will also serve as a meeting point for dialogue, learning and cultural exchange throughout the Festival, complementing leadership forums, educational programmes, community activities and international discussions taking place across New Delhi.

Its presence will reinforce one of the Festival's central objectives to ensure that Nelson Mandela's legacy is experienced not only by those attending the Gala Dinner, but by thousands of members of the public who wish to learn more about his life and the timeless values he represented.

The exhibition will culminate in the **House of Commons Nelson Mandela Legacy Book Gala Dinner & Humanitarian Awards**, creating a fitting finale to two weeks dedicated to education, culture, diplomacy and humanitarian action.

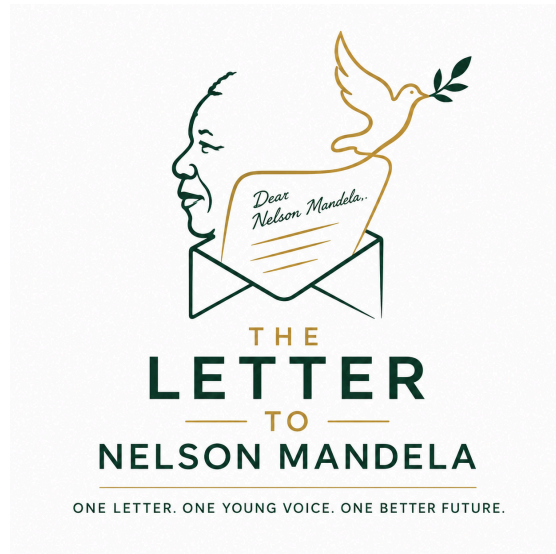
Our ambition is that this exhibition will become one of the defining highlights of the Nelson Mandela Global Festival and the beginning of an ongoing partnership with the Nelson Mandela Museum, enabling future exhibitions to travel internationally as the Festival expands to other countries.

Above all, the exhibition will remind every visitor that Nelson Mandela's greatest legacy is not confined to the pages of history.

It lives on wherever people choose courage over fear, reconciliation over division and hope over despair.

That is the legacy we seek to celebrate.

And that is the legacy we hope to inspire in generations yet to come.



The Letter to Nelson Mandela Initiative

Inspiring the Next Generation to Lead with Courage, Compassion and Hope

"What would you write to Nelson Mandela if you had the opportunity?"

That simple question lies at the heart of the **Letter to Nelson Mandela Initiative**, an international educational programme created by **Nic Careem** to inspire young people to reflect upon the values that made Nelson Mandela one of the greatest leaders in modern history.

The initiative was launched at the **House of Lords** in London alongside prominent British-Indian peer **Lord Rami Ranger**, with a vision of creating a lasting educational legacy that encourages young people to think about leadership, responsibility, kindness and their role in shaping a better future.

As part of the inaugural **Nelson Mandela Global Festival**, the initiative will be **officially launched in India**, inviting **students aged 9 to 18** from schools across the country to write a personal letter to Nelson Mandela.

Each letter will encourage students to reflect on questions such as:

- What does Nelson Mandela's life mean to me?
- How can I make my school or community a better place?
- What values will guide me as a future leader?
- What would I thank Nelson Mandela for?
- What promise would I make to future generations?

The initiative is far more than a creative writing project.

It is an educational journey that encourages students to explore leadership, equality, reconciliation, resilience, service and respect for others while developing confidence in expressing their own hopes and aspirations.

Selected letters will be displayed during the **Nelson Mandela Global Festival**, creating a moving exhibition of young voices inspired by Mandela's life and values. Outstanding entries may also be recognised during the Festival, celebrating the creativity, compassion and leadership potential of India's next generation.

The long-term ambition is for the **Letter to Nelson Mandela Initiative** to grow into a global educational programme, connecting schools across **India, South Africa, the United Kingdom** and, ultimately, countries around the world. Together, these letters will create a unique international archive a living testament to the continuing influence of Nelson Mandela on young people everywhere.

By inviting students to write directly to one of history's greatest humanitarians, we are doing more than teaching history.

We are encouraging a generation to think differently about leadership.

To choose kindness over prejudice.

Service over self-interest.

Hope over fear.

Because Nelson Mandela's greatest legacy will not be found in the monuments built in his honour.

It will be found in the young people who choose to live by the values he inspired.

The Letter to Nelson Mandela Initiative

One Letter. One Young Voice. One Better Future.

