

Selected Quotes from The Elders

NELSON MANDELA

"I know The Elders will support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict and inspire hope where there is despair."

GRAÇA MACHEL

"I have worked with extraordinary people at the community level; people who have brilliant ideas and are making a huge effort to solve problems, but often their contribution is localised, and their voices are not strong enough to be heard. The Elders can play a role in amplifying the voice of the millions of citizens of the world."

DESMOND TUTU

"Despite all of the ghastliness that is around, human beings are those that are made for goodness. The ones that are held in high regard are not the ones that are militarily powerful, nor even economically prosperous. They have a commitment to try and make the world a better place."

ELA BHATT

"For building a non-violent peaceful society in the nations of the world constructive work is integral. Violence cannot contain freedom. Freedom springs from constructive work. The non-violent freedom society is not going to drop from heaven on one auspicious moment, as Ghandhi said. Each one nation and each citizen will have to build it brick by brick, by person to person. Constructive work is the milestone of peace and good relations."



JIMMY CARTER

"I see The Elders as a small but independent group that may fill an existing void in the world community. Almost impervious to the consequences of outside criticism, there will be opportunities for unrestrained analysis of important and complex issues, the evolution of suggestions, and for sharing our ideas with the general public and with others who might take action to resolve problems."

MARY ROBINSON

"Part of the wisdom of The Elders is to remind the young of values... and I was excited at the possibility and the timing for this group of Elders...to remind the world that we actually have universal values that are accepted by every government in the world and yet they are not being implemented."

MUHAMMAD YUNUS

"It is very important at the very outset to be clear about what our objectives are, and what is the best way for us to have the greatest impact, in terms of both economic and social issues."