



CSV

The Centre for the Study of
Violence and Reconciliation

CSV is a multi-disciplinary institute involved in research, policy formation, community interventions, service delivery, education and training, as well as providing consultancy services. The primary goal of CSV is to use its expertise in building reconciliation, democracy and a human rights culture in preventing violence in South Africa and other African countries.

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The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) mourns the death of Nelson Mandela

"..... This reward will not be measured in money. Nor can it be reckoned in the collective price of the rare metals and precious stones that rest in the bowels of the African soil we tread in the footsteps of our ancestors. It will and must be measured by the happiness and welfare of the children, at once the most vulnerable citizens in any society and the greatest of our treasures.

The children must, at last, play in the open veld, no longer tortured by the pangs of hunger or ravaged by disease or threatened with the scourge of ignorance, molestation and abuse, and no longer required to engage in deeds whose gravity exceeds the demands of their tender years.....

We live with the hope that as she battles to remake herself, South Africa will be like a microcosm of the new world that is striving to be born.

This must be a world of democracy and respect for human rights, a world freed from the horrors of poverty, hunger, deprivation and ignorance, relieved of the threat and the scourge of civil wars and external aggression and unburdened of the great tragedy of millions forced to become refugees....."

Rolihlahla, Nelson, Mandela (1993, Acceptance of the Nobel Peace Award ceremony, Norway, Oslo)

The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) would like to join the whole world as it pays tribute to this great son of the African soil, this selfless icon who together with millions of others here at home and in the globe, fought for freedom, human rights and peace in South Africa.

Whilst we are still recovering from the grief of losing someone that we would have liked to have with us forever as he represents an era of hope, of what it is possible when we all work together towards a common cause, we are also full of gratitude. We are full of gratitude for the legacy that he has left us; we join the millions who have and are continuing to thank him in creating a foundation for creating the kind of South Africa that we hope for.

Tata, Madiba, Rolihlahla, owakho umsebenzi uwufezile (*you have done your work*), siyabulela (*thank you*), to you and to your family who have shared you with us. We can all now confidently call you Tata (*father*) together with them.

To the Mandela family and the Madiba clan, CSV and its partners would like to send its sincerest condolences. No matter how much of an icon utata is, the loss of a loved one is never easy, may you receive strength, the love and prayers from across the world as you process this grief which is so personal and yet so public.

To all fellow South Africans, Africans and the globe at large, it is now up to us to take from where Madiba and his generation have ended and to continue his battle for freedom, human rights and peace. As we look back to almost 20 years of democracy, we witness both the solidity of Madiba's legacy to reconciliation and nation building in South Africa. In his 1993 speech Mandela underlines the close link between human rights and democracy: *"We must promote democracy at every level of society. The best and most effective means of ensuring human rights and to promote the eradication of racism and sexism is to enable the full and unqualified participation of all races, sexes and classes in all aspects of society ... Democracy and human rights are inseparable. We cannot have the one without the other"*



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Whilst we have made major strides for political transformation in our country, there remain major challenges related to socio-economic transformation, social justice and healing in this beloved country of ours. In the spirit of Madiba and his legacy, we call on all South Africans to work together in addressing some of the fault-lines that threaten the peace and democracy that uMadiba and his generation fought for. The continued levels of inequality which is one of the drivers of violence, the escalation in violent service delivery strikes, the increase in xenophobic violence, the rise in torture and other related state violence are some of the issues that are facing the current generation of this country. The attainment of a truly non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and equitable society is still a long way off, and will require unwavering adherence to the vision and principles that Mandela left for us all.

In tribute to utata, CSVr would like to recommit itself to join others in addressing these issues in pursuit for sustainable peace in our country and continent. There is a lot to learn from utata, not only in what he fought for but also in how he fought it. May we continue to face these challenges with a spirit of tolerance, listening to each other, courage, selflessness which was some of Madiba's attributes. May we, as he did, create dialogues to engage with difficult, uncomfortable and at times unbearable conversations that we need to have in order to ensure sustainable peace in this country. We invite fellow South Africans, Africa and others in the globe to continue with us in fighting for sustainable peace and continued democracy in our land.

Hamba kahle tata, Rolihlahla Lala Ngoxolo.

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” — Nelson Mandela

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