

MESSAGE FROM THE NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION

It is widely acknowledged that international solidarity constituted one of the pillars of struggle against apartheid. In a myriad ways, both directly and indirectly, individuals and organisations around the world provided crucial support to South Africans in their resistance to oppression. These contributions should never be forgotten.

The role played by the British Anti Apartheid Movement (AAM) looms large in the narratives of this period, a fact we are reminded of constantly through the work of our Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory and Dialogue. Between 2005 and 2007 we assisted in ensuring that duplicate AAM materials were shared amongst memory institutions in South Africa. More recently the Centre undertook a survey of the archives of anti apartheid organisations internationally, the report on which is now accessible on our website.

Of course, as Nelson Mandela reminded us in the last pages of his autobiography, no walk to freedom ever ends. South Africa is discovering that while apartheid was ended formally, the full experience of freedom for all South Africans remains an ideal for which we have to continue working hard. Solidarity in this work from organisations which helped transform our past and continue to believe in our future is greatly welcomed. It is in this context that we wish ACTSA success with its conference **Making Hope a Reality**, and wish it well in its broader endeavours.