

ACTSA Press Release
Friday, 6 March, 2010
London
For Immediate Release

Football and Freedom

Today sees the launch of the *Football and Freedom* learning pack, a joint publication by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA), in the week marking 100 days before the start of 2010 World Cup in South Africa. It has been compiled in collaboration with Kick It Out, the London Borough of Haringey, Link Community Development and a number of NUT teacher members interested in international development and southern Africa.

This pack, available through the NUT website, <http://www.teachers.org.uk/footballandfreedom> can be used by teachers to explore South Africa's "history, culture and context". The activities address many elements of the National Curriculum and are most appropriate for Key Stages 2, 3 and 4. Football fan culture, carbon footprints and issues of equal opportunity, discrimination and human rights are covered. *Football and Freedom* also recommends ways of twinning your school with one in South Africa.

Christine Blower, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, the largest teachers' union, said:

"The NUT is very excited about this project. We have a long-standing commitment to international solidarity and work closely with teacher trade unions across the globe. I hope that many teachers make use of the activities included in *Football and Freedom* and, with them, succeed in illuminating many British children's understanding of South Africa."

Tony Dykes, Director of ACTSA, said:

"This summer, millions of children in Britain will eagerly follow the World Cup in South Africa. *Football and Freedom* will provide a unique opportunity to use the World Cup to introduce them to South Africa's history, culture and development. Twenty years ago, Nelson Mandela was released from prison. Children today know him as a great statesman, but very few know about the role of him and others in the struggle for racial equality and freedom for all South Africans, or the achievements of the new South Africa, as it works to overcome the legacy of apartheid."