



A LETTER TO YOU – FROM NELSON MANDELA

Dear Mirror readers

Today we live in a world that remains divided. A world in which we have made great progress and advances in science and technology.

But it is also a world where millions of children die because they have no access to medicines.

We live in a world where knowledge and information have made enormous strides, yet millions of children are not in school.

We live in a world where the AIDS 2 pandemic threatens the very fabric of our lives. Yet we spend more money on weapons than on ensuring treatment and

support for the millions infected by HIV. It is a world of great promise and hope. It is also a world of despair, disease and hunger.

Millions of people in the world's poorest countries are trapped in the prison of poverty.

It is time to set them free.

Poverty is not natural, it is man-made and can be overcome by the action of human beings.

The leaders of the world's richest countries have already promised to focus on the issue of poverty, especially in Africa.

The steps they must take to bring this about are very clear

and the first is ensuring trade justice.

The second is an end to the debt crisis for the poorest countries.

The third is to deliver much more aid and to make sure it is of the highest quality.

I say to all those leaders – do not look the other way, do not hesitate. Recognise that the world is hungry for actions, not words.

You too have the opportunity to tell them that they must act with courage and vision.

Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great.

You can be that great generation.