

## **The UK's relationship with Nelson Mandela** - Shelley Nicholls

Today Nelson Mandela is regarded as a hero by the UK government and its citizens. He is considered to be a freedom fighter and a legend.

But it hasn't always been this way. Before his arrest and during his imprisonment, Nelson Mandela was thought of as a terrorist by a lot of western countries including America and Britain. In 1987, the prime minister Margaret Thatcher called him "that terrorist Mandela".

The people of the UK did not support the apartheid and opposed it by refusing to let South Africa play sports like cricket in the UK. Also, ship workers would refuse to unload goods from South Africa.

One place in the UK took a stand against the apartheid in 1981. In Scotland, the city of Glasgow decided to award Nelson Mandela with the freedom of the city and supported his cause. In 1993, one year before Nelson Mandela was made President, he came to visit Glasgow to thank them for all their support over the years.

He said to the people of Glasgow, "A city over 6,000 miles away refused to accept the legitimacy of the apartheid system and declared us to be free."