



THOUGHT

for the day

Issue 56

Black History Month

6th October 2008

When you voted for a representative to speak up for you at School Council you did not do a small thing.

YOU DID A VERY IMPORTANT THING

When you put an X on a ballot paper you used your vote, you participated in the democratic process.

In our democracy all people over the age of 18 have the right to vote.

It is something you all must learn to do.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

This was not always the case. In British history groups of people like The Chartists, like the Suffragettes campaigned to ensure everyone had the right to vote. Sometimes lives were lost in the struggle .

In South Africa before 1994 not everyone had the right to vote.

The system of government known as Apartheid denied black people the right to vote.

The political campaign organized in South Africa to end the Apartheid regime finally succeeded so that all people whatever the colour of their skin could have the vote.

The campaign was organized by the ANC a political party led and inspired by

NELSON MANDELA

Under Apartheid Nelson Mandela had been imprisoned on Robben Island in severe Conditions for his opposition to the government of the time.

When he was finally released he led the campaign which resulted in the first general election in South Africa won by the ANC. Nelson Mandela eventually became the president of South Africa.

NELSON MANDELA stands for
freedom, peace and justice
across the world.

Peace and reconciliation

- *In South Africa democracy was achieved by peaceful means.*
- *Through political action the great feat of reconciliation in South Africa was accomplished without bloodshed.*
- *Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership.*
- *He reminded the world that all people are equal.*
- *All disputes can be resolved by talking.*
- *All people have the right to vote for the government of their choice.*

Following the end of Apartheid there could have been bitterness and hatred between the different peoples of South Africa, but Mandela's government was committed to reconciliation.

Reconciliation is a very important human attribute even in the smallest conflicts in our lives like a quarrel between two people.

RECONCILIATION CAN BRING PEACE

We should think about reconciliation whenever there is a threat of violence between individuals.

Maybe Mandela's faith in reconciliation is a clue to ending knife crime in London?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?