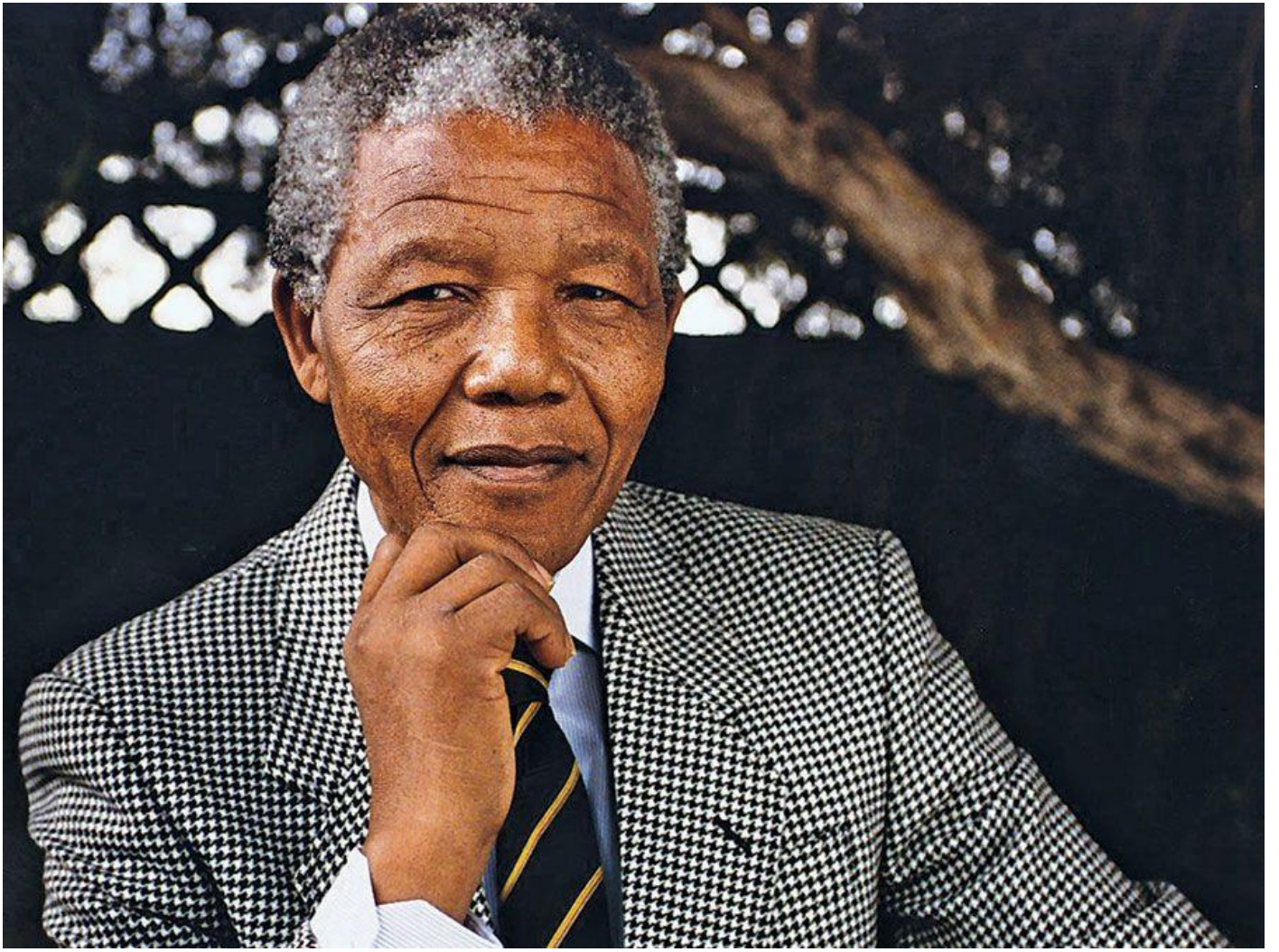


Born in 1918, Nelson Mandela grew up in South Africa. During this time, South Africa was ruled by the white people, whilst the black people were treated as second-class citizens. This meant that they had less rights than white people in South Africa. In fact, things were so bad that black and white people were kept apart! This horrible period and system was called 'apartheid'.

Nelson Mandela disagreed with apartheid and wanted it to end so that there could be equality between all South Africans. He joined in with peaceful protests to try to convince the government to change its laws, but they didn't listen. Frustrated, Mandela and some other members of a group he joined called the ANC (African National Congress) decided more radical action was needed. They didn't want to hurt people but they blew up things to show they were serious about wanting an end to apartheid.

Nelson was jailed for 27 years for his involvement. People began to find out about his imprisonment and called for justice and his release. When Mandela was eventually freed, the government was finally ready to listen. President Klerk worked with Mandela to help end apartheid. A few years later, Mandela was elected as the first black president of South Africa! He and Archbishop Desmond Tutu called South Africa the 'Rainbow Nation', working towards togetherness and peace as equals.

Throughout his life, Nelson Mandela made lots of speeches, trying to convince people to support equality for all and to change and improve the world.



Nelson Mandela

1918 - 2013