



December 9, 2024

The Elders Foundation
3 Tilney Street,
London W1K 1BJ

Dear Elders,

We are proud to present you with this year's Climate Courage Award for standing up so strongly, collaborating so diligently and advocating so thoughtfully to resolve the climate crisis. For this existential threat to humankind to be successfully addressed, we together need to make this a central organizing principle and with that the world needs bold and enduring solutions based on committed and clairvoyant leadership. The Elders are providing such leadership and you are answering the call by developing an inspiring model of action that can be reinforced and replicated. You are upholding a model of excellence based on ethical, collaborative and long view leadership.

At this very vulnerable moment in global affairs, you are prioritizing our shared humanity and putting common purpose above isolationism. The Elders are using your independence, collective experience and moral authority to hold world leaders to account for managing the climate crisis better and treating it like the emergency that it really is. Also, as the poorest people on the planet are the most direly affected, you are standing up for climate justice by calling for wise investments in clean energy for developing economies, in resiliency for frontline communities, and in the essential phase out of fossil fuels.

We at the Climate Change Leadership Institute are inspired by the teamwork from all the current members of The Elders, including profound humanitarians like Mary Robinson and statesmen like Juan Manuel Santos and Kofi Annan. We are also moved by your founder, the late Nelson Mandela, who said after the long struggle for freedom, "the time has come to accept in our hearts and minds that with freedom comes responsibility." All of us on this planet, especially those nations who have emitted the most greenhouse gasses, have a responsibility together to resolve the existential threat of man made climate change. In this vital endeavor we should follow the lead of our Elders.

Thank you so much to The Elders and to your staff for the courageous example you are setting in the global community.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Robb Hirsch
Founder & Executive Director