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Commonwealth Day Message 1993

FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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THIS year on Commonwealth Day, I am asking you all to think about human values. I know from the many letters I receive from young people that their generation cares deeply about the rights of the individual, about the sufferings of others and about making a better world for us all to live in. I believe the youth of the Commonwealth is well placed to give a lead in showing how human values can be improved.

We share the same world but we do not share the same opportunities. Everyone wants to be free from poverty and hunger, disease and discrimination, to have access to education and to live in a safe environment. People everywhere want to be able to play a full part in the democratic government of their countries and to live in freedom, protected by just laws. These aspirations were endorsed by all the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth when they met in Harare in 1991, and much has been achieved since then in fulfilling them.

In societies where constitutional rights are assured, co-operation between all citizens becomes more natural and more fruitful in tackling the major problems we face. The achievement of one human value can help to achieve others. We should all aspire to raise the standards of life in our countries, to achieve a more prosperous and equitable society and to exercise a powerful influence for peace within and between nations.

None of this is easy to bring about because the establishment of human values implies duties as well as rights. If we want to exercise and enlarge our rights and opportunities, we have to safeguard the rights and opportunities of others. We should look for chances to give service just as eagerly as we look for benefits for ourselves.

The young people of the Commonwealth have the future in their hands. May they keep their vision of human values alive and their determination to achieve them undiminished. And may our fifty nations, sharing our experience and working together to enhance the quality of life, send an example to the rest of the world.

8th March, 1993

ELIZABETH R.

