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Princess Diana's Legacy



A Look Back at
The Life and
Legacy of
Princess Diana

NDA NEWS

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It might have been almost 24 years since Princess Diana's tragic passing away but she is still remembered fondly as someone whose philanthropic efforts touched many hearts. As her 60th birthday has just passed, we are taking a look back at her life and the legacy she has left.

Princess Diana was the mother of HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and HRH Prince Harry. She tragically lost her life in a car crash in Paris in 1997, at age 36.

Diana didn't just accept the world around her for the way it was and she used her role in the public eye to help causes that many others overlooked. She also believed in the power of young people to change the world and that young people should be supported to make sure they reach their full potential.

The late Diana, Princess of Wales, was born as Lady Diana Frances Spencer, on 1 July 1961.

The Princess had two elder sisters and a younger brother. She was brought up at her father's house on the Queen's estate at Sandringham and then at the family home of Althorp in Northamptonshire. After attending Riddlesworth Hall and West Heath School in



Kent she completed her education in Switzerland and then taught at a kindergarten in Central London. She married HRH Prince of Wales at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on 29 July 1981 and had two sons, Prince William Arthur Phillip Louis (now The Duke of Cambridge), born 21 July 1982 and Prince Henry (Harry) Charles Albert David born 15 September 1984.

Throughout her life, Diana devoted herself to serving others, especially those without a voice. She was President or Patron of over 100 charities as a part of her royal duties, many of which did work on behalf of homeless and disabled people, children, and people with HIV/AIDS.



After 1996, Diana continued to work as either Patron or President for Centrepoin, the English National Ballet, Leprosy Mission, the National Aids Trust, Hospital for Sick Children, Great



Ormond Street and the Royal Marsden Hospital. In the year before she died, Diana tirelessly campaigned to ban the manufacture and use of landmines.

Diana made many visits to North America, visiting hospices, schools, charities and fundraising galas, and touched the lives of many wherever she went. Other major overseas visits included Angola, Australia, Bosnia, Egypt, India, Pakistan, and many European countries. The Princess spoke out on a wide range of issues and used her high profile to raise awareness as well as funds for charitable causes. She is rightly recognised and respected today as a true humanitarian.

Diana's vast philanthropic work is just one example of how she helped make the monarchy more accessible, changing the way the royal family related to people. By interacting more intimately with the public – kneeling to the level of a child, sitting on the edge of a patient's

hospital bed, writing personal notes to her fans – she connected with people in a way that inspired other royals, including her sons, Princes William and Harry, as the monarchy worked to become more human and remain relevant in the 21st century.

Diana's sons learned from their mother's example, making more personal connections with the public during their charitable work, including supporting efforts to destigmatize



mental health problems and treat young AIDS patients in Lesotho and Botswana.

William, who is second in line to the throne, worked as an air ambulance pilot before taking on full-time royal duties. Harry retraced Diana's footsteps through the minefield for The HALO Trust.

The British Princes William and Harry have recently unveiled a statue honouring their late mother Princess Diana on what would have been her 60th birthday. The work by sculptor Ian Rank-Broadley, a figure of Diana standing between a boy and girl, was revealed on Thursday in the Sunken Garden of Kensington Palace in



central London, her former home. "Today, on what would have been our mother's 60th birthday, we remember her love, strength and character – qualities that made her a force for good around the world, changing countless lives for the better," the brothers said in a statement.

"Every day, we wish she were still with us, and our hope is that this statue will be seen forever as a symbol of her life and her legacy."

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