

## Mandela voted 'Greatest' on world stage

The British, French and the Germans consider Nelson Mandela to be “the leading statesman of our time”, according to a poll released this week by French company TNS.

He was chosen as the person who most embodies the quality of “being great” on the world stage in recent times by 35% of the 1000 people questioned in a poll carried out for CNN.

Mother Teresa comes second in the combined findings with 30%, Pope John Paul II third with 27% and Bob Geldof with 5%.

The poll was conducted for CNN by TNS in the run-up to a new feature show called “Quest”, the launch edition of which focuses on great individuals. The goal was to test what constitutes “excellence” for residents in Britain, France and Germany.

‘Leadership’ is seen by a significant proportion of people in Britain (61 per cent) and Germany (46 per cent) as the quality which best defines being ‘great’.

In France, 46% of respondents said that charisma was important while another 30% said it was humility.

Compared with the clear preference among people in Britain for Nelson Mandela as the person who best embodied the quality of greatness, respondents in France and Germany were fairly evenly split in their voting between Mandela, Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II.

Mandela just edged the lead in France (34%, of the vote compared with Mother Teresa (31%) and Pope John Paul II (32%)), while in Germany Mother Teresa just edged out Mandela and Pope John Paul by a similarly small margin (33%, versus 32% for Mandela and 31% for the former Pope.)

While Bob Geldof took 14% of the vote in Britain, he polled respectively 1% and 2% in the French and German polls.

“It’s refreshing to see the diversity across Europe that this poll throws up, particularly so the confirmation of the high regard that Nelson Mandela is held in as a leading statesman of our time”, commented Nick Wrenn, Managing Editor CNN International, Europe/Middle East/Africa.