Equity and Inclusion Resources

REFUGEES

Against All Odds – an online educational game that simulates the experience of fleeing a country, is built on facts and short films, and comes w/ a teacher’s guide that includes exercises, discussion topics and extensive additional resources. Available in 12 languages. http://www.playagaininstallodds.ca

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH – monitors human rights abuses worldwide. Every year, in June, they hold a film festival w/ the film society of Lincoln Center in NY. www.ff.hrw.org In 2016, a highlight was “The Crossing”, a powerful documentary that follows a small group of refugees on their nail-biting journey by sea to Greece, and the difficulties in assimilating when they disperse. 55 min. (1st Take Films ) On HRW’s website you can also find a current article and video titled “Greece: Refugees w/ Disabilities Overlooked, Underserved, “ and articles on many human rights issues. www.hrw.org

UNHCR – the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – is the place to begin. They offer a Teacher’s Toolkit differentiating between refugees, the internally displaced, and migrants. Their Teacher Resources include games, lesson plans, learning activities, online quizzes, photos, animated and live films created by HCR and Amnesty International, and personal stories, from WWII to the present. Easy to access activities for 21 European languages, and all age levels. They also have a great poster of upturned faces in a refugee boat titled “The only thing stronger than fear is hope. ” www.unhcr.org/en-us/teaching-about-refugees.html


The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951), ratified by 145 States, is the key legal document defining who can be called refugees, their rights, and the legal obligations of governments to protect them. www.unhcr.org/en-us/1951-refugee-convention.html
The ATLANTIC Magazine – “How Do You Rank Refugees?” wrestles with the question ‘What makes an asylum seeker from Syria needier than one from Sudan?’ Addresses issues of choice when funds are inadequate. www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/11/how-do-you-rank-refugees/281771


NY TIMES op ed article “Bono: Time to Think Bigger About the Refugee Crisis” (April 12, 2016) The well-known singer and activist debunks ideas about refugees, where they live and the length of time they remain in camps, and, backed by officials of the World Bank and IMF, advocates for a new Marshall Plan to deliver development in the service of security. https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/12/opinion/bono-time-to-think-bigger-about-the-refugee-crisis.html? r=0 Nicholas Kristof, op ed columnist, also has a number of articles in the Times on refugees.


Short Videos

“When you Don’t Exist” imagines a scenario where migration flows would be reversed. As violent unrest causes Europeans to reach Africa, they are forcibly taken by authorities and jailed in refugee camps. 2min.10sec /2013 https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/education/2016/03/seven-free-short-films-about-refugees-recommended-by-human-rights-educators/(See also full-length feature “ The Day After Tomorrow” where extreme climate change causes North Americans to seek asylum in Mexico – available on DVD)


“John Cho Tells the Story of a Syrian Teacher” – A teacher working in the camps talks about the need for patience, creativity when supplies are unavailable and his pride in a math student who succeeds beyond his expectations OXFAM 2:29 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsRycKSfLxc

Books about refugees:

http://www.whatdowedoallday.com/childrens-books-about-refugees/

http://www.colorincolorado.org/booklist/refugee-experience-books-children

Strength in What Remains by Tracy Kidder

The inspiring story of Deo Gratias, a Burundian student when the Rwandan crisis expanded into Burundi, and forced his harrowing escape. In NY, living in a carton in Central Park, reading dictionaries to learn English, and working as a delivery boy for Gristedes, he was rescued by a nun, and enabled to attend Columbia University. Modeling himself on Dr. Paul Farmer, he returned to Burundi and set up a village clinic there. NY: Random House, 2010 www.amazon.com

The Morning They Came For Us by Janine di Giovanni – A journalist who covered Syria for Vanity Fair, Newsweek, and the NY Times, tells the story of life in a jihadist war zone through the eyes of a doctor, a nun, a musician and a student. Amazon calls it ‘an unforgettable testament to resilience in the face of nihilistic human debasement.’ www.amazon.com

FOCUS ON POVERTY – GENDER EQUALITY – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Half the Sky - Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn. NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. There is a Chinese saying that “Women hold up half the sky.” These horrific yet inspiring stories of resilient women in Asia and Africa call attention to what the authors refer to as “the primary moral issue of the 21st Century.” A must read. The book’s appendix has 3 pages of organizations supporting women.


In a tender “Have I Told You Lately that I Love You?” letter, President Obama pays tribute to several groundbreaking Americans whose ideals have shaped the nation, many of whom, including Jackie Robinson, the Sioux Medicine man, Sitting Bull, Jane Addams, Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez, and Abraham Lincoln worked on social justice issues.

The Time of Our Lives By Tom Brokaw. Random House Trade Paperback, 2012. Traces the changes in modern life—in values, education, public service, housing, the Internet etc. that have transformed our society in recent years, and portrays inspiring Americans who have become change agents in their communities, along with a number of innovative ideas, including a call for expanding national service.

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder. The uplifting portrait of Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health, who dedicated his life to the people of Haiti and beyond, and worked against insuperable odds to build a clinic and hospital in a rural area totally lacking in infrastructure. The title, based on a Haitian proverb, “Beyond mountains there are more mountains,” is an apt metaphor for his work.

Strength in What Remains by Tracy Kidder. NY: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2010. The amazing journey of Deo Gratias, a young medical student in Burundi, who was forced to flee his country, and survived in NY, taking odd jobs and living in Central Park until, with the help of generous New Yorkers, he was sent to Columbia University to complete his education. Modeling himself on Paul Farmer, he has since returned to Burundi and established his own clinic, Village Health Works.


[ King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968: A Call to Conscience: The Landmark Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr., ed. by Clayborne Carson and Kris Shepard (PDF files with commentary at Stanford)

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968: I Have a Dream (PDF and audio at Stanford)

[Info] King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968: I've Been to the Mountaintop (HTML at Stanford)
King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968: Letter From Birmingham Jail

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968: The Measure of a Man (Philadelphia: Christian Education Press, c1959

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968: Selected works (HTML at Stanford)


The End of Poverty Economic Possibilities for Our Time by Jeffrey Sachs. 2006. For on-the-ground research in reducing disease, poverty, armed conflict and environmental damage, Sachs traveled to more than 100 countries, representing 90% of the world’s population.

In this book he makes a strong moral, economic and political case for why countries and individuals should battle poverty with the same commitment and focus normally reserved for waging war (from a review in Publishers Weekly). Available at www.amazon.com.

Stitching Truth Women’s Protest Art in Pinochet’s Chile by Dan Eshet, NY: Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, 2008. Illustrates how individuals working together can make a difference despite living under brutal dictatorship. With the help of the Catholic Bishop of Santiago, a group of women stitched together scraps of fabric into “arpilleras” (colorful tapestries) documenting government abuses, and became leaders in the movement to restore democracy to Chile. Lesson plans based on the book are available at www.facinghistory.org.


This book is about overcoming discrimination. “Look at these hands, Joseph,” the elderly black grandfather tells his grandson, and proceeds to show him all the things that “these hands” could once do and those it still can. We then learn that he once worked for the Wonder Bread Company as a janitor, assembly line and truck loader, but was not allowed to touch the bread dough lest white people would refuse to eat it, and how, through collective action, Wonder was forced to change its policy.

World Poverty and Human Rights By Thomas Pogge. Polity, 2nd edition, 2008. Called brilliantly original, and one of the best books on global economic inequality available, this is an intellectually rigorous combination of moral argument and relevant fact that shows convincingly that the existing global order is ethically indefensible. It also makes practical, clear and inventive suggestions on what we can do to make it less unjust. Available on amazon.com.

“Thomas Pogge on the Past, Present and Future of Global Poverty”— www.truth-out.org/news/item/792 a feature interview with Keane Bhatt of Truthout, an organization which works to spark action through investigative reporting and critical analysis to reveal systemic injustice and provide a platform for transformative ideas. In this shorter version of
the ideas presented in his book (above) Dr. Pogge points out that social rules imposed by
countries and corporations with vested interests are susceptible to moral analysis, and that we
who elect and fund these governments are not just innocent bystanders.

A Day in Your Life: Touched By Modern Slavery— A fact sheet detailing every two hours in a
typical day, from 6:00 AM to 11 PM –from morning coffee to the sheets on the bed at night -
the food you eat, the products you buy and the consumer items you use, all of which may have
been produced by someone in involuntary servitude. The tag line is “How many slaves work for
you?” Produced by the US Dept. of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
–June 2012. You (or your students) can also work out your own slavery footprint
at www.slaveryfootprint.org which contains much more information.

Bitter Seeds –2011, the 3rd in a trilogy by Teddy Bear Films, (the 2nd, China Blue 2008,
investigated sweatshop conditions in the clothes we buy) is an emotionally powerful
documentary that sheds light on the crisis in India created by Monsanto’s genetically
engineered cotton, their false promises and ruthless monopolization. The result was that ¼
million farmers over a sixteen-year period committed suicide (approximately 1 every 30
minutes), most by drinking pesticide. This film, which has won multiple awards, was shown in
the Human Rights Watch Film Festival in June, 2012, and is available on DVD. For screenings in
theatres around the country see their website http://teddybearfilms.com

Food for 9 Billion, a collaboration of Homeland Productions, the PBS NewsHour and the
Center for Investigative Reporting, is a yearlong look at the challenge of feeding the world in a
time of social and environmental change. Includes film and transcripts dealing with the impact
of China’s current demand for meat and toxicity in many of their products, changes in the
Greek diet away from healthy Mediterranean to fast food which takes less time to cook, and
attempts to change America’s food choices as obesity leads to ever greater heart disease,

KQED: Heat and Harvest-the documentary, along with two transcripts addresses the effects of
climate change on California’s farm belt – looking specifically at cherries, almonds and
potatoes. Rising temperatures, volatile storms, rising sea levels which increase the salinity of
water, killing tree roots, the diminishing availability of fresh water and more abundant pests
who can now survive year round are only some of the challenges. Resultant need for greater
pesticide use negates the environmental gains made in recent years, and increases costs, which
ultimately will find their way to supermarkets. http://cironline.org/heatandharvest

Makers: Women Who Make America—in three parts tells the history of social justice for
women from the beginnings of the women’s movement in the early 1970’s to today’s efforts to
globalize the fight to protect women worldwide. Aired on February 26,
2013. www.pbs.org/makers/home