DEAR FRIENDS,

In 2014, the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights became Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. Our name and logo have changed; our commitment to continuing my father’s unfinished work for a more just and peaceful world is stronger than ever.

That work wouldn’t be possible without the support of friends and allies like you, and you should take pride in the impact that you made in 2014. Thanks to you, LGBT rights activist Frank Mugisha, winner of the 2011 RFK Human Rights Award, was successful in his campaign to overturn Uganda’s draconian Anti-Homosexuality Act, which a court nullified in August. Thanks to you, more than a million students around the world studied our human rights curriculum, creating a necessary counterbalance to the tide of extremism and discontent rising around the world. Thanks to you, our lawyers were able to represent the family of a Guatemalan woman killed just because of her gender, offering them the justice they deserve.

These are just a few of the achievements your friendship allowed us to realize in 2014. We also convened three successful RFK Compass conferences about business and human rights; successfully campaigned for the first-ever U.S.-Africa Leaders’ Summit to include the voices of human rights activists; and entered a new partnership with Adilur Rahman Khan, winner of the 2014 RFK Human Rights Award and Bangladesh’s leading civil society activist.

If all of this wasn’t enough, we were overjoyed when our founder—and my mother—Ethel Kennedy, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama for a lifetime of service to those in need. The award was not only a fitting tribute to my mother’s remarkable life, but also a recognition of the efforts of those who work to carry forward the legacy of Robert F. Kennedy—a worldwide network in which you can proudly claim membership.

Warmly,

Kerry Kennedy
President

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Kerry Kennedy
RFK PARTNERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

RFK PARTNERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

RFK HUMAN RIGHTS LEADS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY ACT
RFK Partners for Human Rights worked closely with RFK Human Rights Award Laureate Frank Mugisha, the leading LGBT rights activist in Uganda, to report on the considerable harm Uganda’s draconian Anti-Homosexuality Act did to the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association and secured an unprecedented response from the US government and its policy toward Uganda.

On August 1, 2014, Uganda’s high court struck down the nation’s draconian Anti-Homosexuality Act, which prohibited the “promotion” of homosexuality and carried penalties up to and including life in prison. The law had disastrous public health consequences and led to an increase in anti-LGBT violence in Uganda.

The ruling of the Ugandan court was a significant victory, but there is a real possibility that the legislation will be reintroduced. RFK Human Rights will continue to work with its partners to promote and defend respect for the rights of all LGBT people.

U.S.-AFRICA SUMMIT
In August of 2014, the first-ever U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit took place in Washington, D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights led a group of international civil society organizations in calling for inclusion of civil society participants and discussion on human rights during the Summit.


Civil society’s voice was heard. In response to the plan of action, the White House organized an official civil society event to take place during the Leaders Summit and added good governance and human rights to the official agenda, ensuring that the U.S.-Africa Leaders’ Summit took into consideration the well-being of all Africa’s people.
RFK TRAINING INSTITUTE

In its first full year of trainings, the Robert F. Kennedy Training Institute in Florence, Italy held trainings for government representatives, human rights defenders, and NGO employees from 56 countries around the globe. Among the highlights were an experts’ meeting on freedom of expression, children’s rights, and the Internet led by Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (now director of RFK Human Rights Europe); and LGBT Rights Forum that brought 15 leading activists from Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa; and a training on human rights protection mechanisms featuring UN Special Rapporteur for Torture Juan Mendez (co-sponsored by American University’s Washington College of Law).

Other trainings focused on using the Inter-American System, environmental law, and digital strategy for women’s rights defenders.

RELEASING THE REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NORTH KOREA

In February, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry released a report finding that the North Korean regime’s human rights violations may be sufficiently egregious to be reckoned as crimes against humanity. RFK Partners for Human Rights followed this landmark report with one of its own, calling upon the United States to make human rights the basis of its policy toward North Korea. Co-authored by RFK Partners for Human Rights’ Donald M. Wilson Fellow Daniel Aum and Greg Scarlatoiu and Amanda Mortwedt Oh of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, the 28-page document argues that the U.S. government’s longstanding “security-first” policy has failed to halt North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear weapons, and that the U.S. should pursue a “human rights up front” approach instead.

1995 RFK Human Rights Award Laureate Kailash Satyarthi won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end child slavery and trafficking. Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani advocate for children’s rights, women’s rights, and the right to education, also won the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES OF MISSING STUDENTS IN MEXICO

In the fall, 43 students disappeared from the southwestern Mexican state of Guerrero by local police with links to organized crime. It took a week for the federal government to intervene. Working with its partners at the Mexican human rights group Tlachinollan, which represents the families of the disappeared, RFK Partners for Human Rights has urged the government to find out who was responsible for the horrible scene in the mountains of Guerrero. Our efforts have included participating in a human rights delegation to the community the students were disappeared from calling on the Mexican government to investigate; a high-profile advocacy campaign in partnership with Tlachinollan and several other NGOs; meetings with officials from the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs; and a briefing session for members of Congress and their staffs on Capitol Hill.

RFK Partners for Human Rights and its partners will continue to pressure the Mexican government to find the missing students and bring those responsible to justice.

ENDING FEMICIDE IN GUATEMALA

More than 700 women were killed in Guatemala in 2012 simply because they were women. This epidemic of gender violence is part of a broader pattern of femicide that affects many Latin American nations.

One victim of this wave of killings was Claudia Isabel, a 19-year-old law student who was murdered in 2005. The Guatemalan government failed to properly investigate her death, and subsequent efforts by Claudia’s family to hold the state accountable for its misconduct were met with silence and contempt.

Last July, RFK Partners for Human Rights’ International Strategic Litigation Unit filed a case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on behalf of Claudia and her family that details Guatemala’s responsibility for multiple human rights violations related to her death, ensuring that the government cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the crisis unfolding within its borders. A favorable decision would change Guatemala and protect the rights of women throughout Latin America.

“With new technologies and an increasingly interconnected world, the role of civil society is becoming more and more crucial to defending human rights and strengthening the rule of law”

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RFK PARTNERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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RFK SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

“SPEAKING TRUTH TO THE EU
In February, with the help of Cecilia Wikström, a Swedish Member of the European Parliament, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights presented its play Speak Truth To Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark to an audience of 500 people at the European Union headquarters in Brussels. Actors Lena Olin, Dylan Bruno and Dennis Haysbert were joined onstage by Ms. Wikström, European Parliament President Martin Schulz, and their colleagues from Belgium, Cyprus, France, the United Kingdom. After the performance, Education International’s Dave Edward moderated a panel discussion between Kerry Kennedy, RFK Speak Truth To Power Executive Director John Heffernan, and President Schulz that analyzed the role of human rights education and the impact of the Speak Truth To Power curriculum, which each year is taught around the world to over a million students from preschool to law school.

The evening was sponsored by the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

“70 TEACHERS JOIN SPEAK TRUTH RANKS THROUGH SUMMER INSTITUTES
In the summer of 2014, Speak Truth To Power hosted Summer Institutes for teachers in Memphis, Los Angeles, Palo Alto, and New York City. Aimed at building a network of Lead Educators equipped and inspired to lead the work of Speak Truth To Power in their classrooms, schools, communities, and professional associations, the Summer Institutes trained and certified 70 new Lead Educators and enhanced local partnerships with organizations like the GRAMMY Museum, US Fund for UNICEF, National Civil Rights Museum, the University of Memphis Benjamin Hooks Center, the University of Connecticut Dodd Center, the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, New York State United Teachers, United Federation of Teachers, and the Tribeca Film Institute.

“The Speak Truth To Power video contest and curriculum are a powerful example of how public education can live up to its ideal as an anchor of democracy – by giving all children the tools they need to be citizens of the world and advocates for social justice, in their communities and across the globe.” — Randi Weingarten, AFT President

“Culture can make a difference. It can open people’s hearts in a way nothing else can. With the show I want to show that culture can make a difference. Speak Truth To Power highlights very courageous people, who even risked their lives in defending human rights. Their courage and desire to improve people’s lives urges and inspires us to rise and action”
— Swedish Member of Parliament Cecilia Wikström

“When political systems falter, what can one do as an individual to make a difference? Taking inspiration from the humanitarianism and human rights work of others, the Robert F. Kennedy Center inspires and motivates more people to take action in support of justice and the equal value of all human beings” — Niclas Kjellström-Matske, CEO of the Swedish Postcode Lottery

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In its third year of operation, RFK Young Leaders, a network of young professionals eager to work for social justice, opened its first chapter outside of New York in Washington, D.C. Quickly drawing more than 150 members, this group of some of the capital’s brightest young minds has focused on issues of juvenile justice, joining the RFK Juvenile Justice Collaborative (see page 13) to hold educational events on America’s juvenile justice system and on reform efforts in Washington, D.C. that would impact how young people charged with adult crimes are incarcerated.

What could New York City’s brightest young web programmers do to improve health outcomes in the Gulf Coast of the United States, more than a thousand miles to the south? That’s the question that the Robert F. Kennedy Young Leaders set out to answer when they joined the development company AngelHack to co-host a two-day hackathon, or marathon programming contest, in Brooklyn. Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award Laureate Stephen Bradberry, who has dedicated his life to protecting the economic and social rights of underserved Gulf Coast communities, launched the event, delivering a keynote address describing his efforts. The programmers then broke into teams and spent the following 48 hours designing apps that could help Bradberry in his work.

The winning team created an interactive map depicting the local health resources available to communities affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. A few months after the contest, the team joined two members of RFK Young Leaders on a trip to New Orleans to demonstrate their app to Bradberry’s colleagues, cementing a partnership that continues to grow.

The RFK Juvenile Justice Collaborative is a partnership between RFK Human Rights and the RFK Children’s Action Corps, an independent Massachusetts nonprofit, that addresses one of the most pressing issues in America: the rights of juveniles in the justice system and the policies and programs that help them transition back into their communities.

In 2014, the RFK Juvenile Justice Collaborative participated in a number of events and initiatives aimed at improving America’s record on juvenile justice. Jenny Collier, the Collaborative’s coordinator, developed and moderated a juvenile justice reform panel for the historic Bipartisan Summit on Criminal Justice Reform, sponsored by Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Donna Brazile, Pat Nolan of the American Conservative Union, and Van Jones. This panel featured a successful justice reform youth advocate from Baltimore and several field experts.

The Collaborative also supported the appearance and testimony of a young Poet Ambassador from a Washington, D.C. education and reentry program, Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop, at the House Judiciary Committee’s Over-Criminalization Task Force Forum on the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Conviction. The Poet Ambassador discussed the reentry challenges he faced after going to prison at 16, serving a ten year sentence, and returning to D.C.

Finally, the RFK Juvenile Justice Collaborative secured the final rollout of a critical access to education guidance by the Departments of Education and Justice. The guidance was informed by two years of advocacy co-led by the Collaborative, with many of the recommendations and guidance points reflecting recommendations made by the Collaborative and its partners. This guidance is a major first step in improving correctional and reentry education for thousands of young people in the juvenile justice system nationwide.
RFK COMPASS

“RFK Compass is a unique initiative and I have seen firsthand the value of participation in the annual and regional conferences. Compass convenes key stakeholders who understand the power of investments and markets and the imperative of achieving the double bottom line of doing good while doing well. The panels, presentations and networking venues that the Compass programs provide are invaluable opportunities. RFK Human Rights is advancing an important engagement through the Compass Program.”

–Tom DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller

CHARTING A COURSE TO SUSTAINABILITY

RFK Compass addresses the impact of business on human rights by convening members of the institutional investment and asset management communities to discuss sustainable investing and its impact on risk adjusted investment returns and long term economic growth.

At the heart of RFK Compass is a series of conferences presented throughout the United States, most notably an annual conference at the Kennedy Family compound in Hyannis Port, MA. Attendees include senior decision makers at public pension funds, endowments, foundations and family offices - each representing $3-350 billion in assets under management - and their investment consultants. Conferences are sponsored and attended by asset management firms that address environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in their investment strategies. Each conference is invitation-only and offers engaging panel discussions and speakers and multiple opportunities for informal discussions between participants.

2014 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- MICHAEL BESCHLOSS, Author & Historian (Hyannis Port, MA)
- DAVID BLOOD, Co-Founder & Senior Partner, Generation Investment Management (Hyannis Port, MA)
- HIS EXCELLENCY JAN ELIASSON, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations (New York, NY)
- ANNE MATHIAS, Managing Director and Head of Research, Guggenheim Partners (Half Moon Bay, CA)
- KENNETH MEHLMAN, Member, Global Head of Public Affairs, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Company, LLP and Former Chairman of the Republican National Committee (New York, NY)
- MICHAEL POSNER, Co-Director and Professor of Business and Society, Center for Business and Human Rights, Stern School of Business, New York University (Hyannis Port, MA)

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE INVESTING?

An approach to investing that considers environmental, social and governance factors when identifying investments that minimize risks and maximize shareholder returns

“Industrial asset owners across the United States now consider environmental, social or corporate governance criteria in investment analysis and portfolio selection for aggregate assets of $4.04 trillion, a 77 percent increase since the start of 2012.”


COMPASS SUSTAINABLE INVESTING EDUCATION PROGRAM

In the spring and autumn of 2014, RFK Compass held two sessions of its continuing education initiative in alliance with the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Designed for institutional investors, asset managers, financial planners and consultants, the program provided a comprehensive approach to investment analysis based on the belief that sustainable investing is an element of risk mitigation which is at the core of fiduciary responsibility. The course was delivered through a combination of case studies, lectures by experts in the field and group exercises.
SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER
TEACH TRUTH TO POWER:
RFK Center announces the conclusion of 5th Annual TTTP
On May 8, 2014 the fifth annual Teach Truth to Power training was held at the RFK International House of Human Rights in Florence. The event, “Teach Truth to Power: Let’s Talk About Rights!” focused on education as a tool for the defense of human rights. The course was organized by Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the City of Florence. More than 75 teachers, administrators, police officers, community activists, administrators from Greece, Italy, Sweden, and the United States attended the all-day training.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CELEBRATED ONE YEAR OF ACTIVITIES
On May 17, 2014 the Robert F. Kennedy International House of Human Rights celebrated its first anniversary by dedicating the Robert F. Kennedy International House Library. Since May 17th, 2013, 109 participants from 18 countries and 65 representatives from 22 countries have been trained at the International House. Ten exhibitions have been displayed at Le Murate, attracting over a thousand visitors, including five hundred students, and more than 200 guests stayed with us. The Robert F. Kennedy International House Library will be part of SDIAF, the integrated documentary system for Florence. Thanks to exclusive partnerships, the library will be able to offer all SDIAF resources, consult specific databases, and access the social sciences faculty library at the University of Florence.

CLUB DE MADRID
The inaugural dinner on “The Future of Democratic Governance” at the Robert F. Kennedy International House opened the ‘Democracy and Human Rights in Decline? A Call to Action’ Policy Dialogue on the 23rd of November. Romano Prodi, Club de Madrid Member and former Prime Minister of Italy, participated in the inaugural session with a reflection on the global and regional democratic trends and the relationship between democracy and economy. Dario Nardella, mayor of Florence, welcomed the participants to the Dialogue and to the city.
DIALOGUE CAFE EVENTS

Dialogue Café is the world’s first open video-conferencing network that connects communities and spaces through cutting-edge video conferencing technology, enabling multi-city events.

Using this tool, in 2014 we hosted the following events:

• Dialogue Café with Esraa Abdelfattah and Mohacine Mammane. The Media From the Arab Spring to Censorship: the quality of information in Mediterranean Countries.
• On September 30, 2014, we partnered with COSPE to host Esraa Abdelfattah, an Egyptian political activist who played a significant role in the 2011 Tahrir Square revolts, and Mohacine Mammane, a journalist from Chabaka in Tangier who focuses on immigration, youth, and employment rights.
• Dialogue Café on Digital Innovation in Education: Models and Good Practices

We worked with the councilor for Education, Universities, Youth, Europe, and Equal Opportunities from the City of Florence municipality to lead a conversation on emerging European legislation on education and how it might be successfully implemented in Italy. Jorge Sampaio, Former President of Portugal, joined the conversation from Lisbon through our Dialogue Café community platform. The Dialogue Café community from Ramallah was connected to the cross-national conference, and a delegation of educators from Iceland was present to contribute to the discussion. The event was held on April 30, 2014.

ITALIAN SENATE HOSTED EVENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN WESTERN SAHARA

On June 12, 2014 the Italian Senate hosted an event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary group for the Saharawi People in collaboration with the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Europe, Amnesty International Italia and Zona. The event focused on the serious human rights violations in the disputed territory of Western Sahara and urged the Moroccan government to meet its obligations under international human rights law.

Santiago A. Canton, Director of Robert F. Kennedy Partners for Human Rights, addressed the Inter-Parliamentary group for the Saharawi brothers as they grapple with the issue in the nation’s capital, and images from the historic March on Washington.

The exhibit was showcased across Italy, including Trento, Firenze, Torino, Milano, Varese, and La Spezia, attracting 11,500 visitors.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

To coincide with Black History Month in the U.S., we hosted a forum that explored the historical period spanning from the Civil Rights era of Martin Luther King, Jr. to the United States today under President Barack Obama. Sarah Craddock Morrison, former U.S. Consul General in Florence, joined the evening’s main speaker. Participants in the cities of Ramallah and Lisbon had the opportunity to join through the Dialogue Café’s innovative videoconferencing network. The event took place on February 25, 2014.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN UKRAINE: A GEOPOLITICAL INSIGHT

On March 25, 2014 we hosted a discussion of the geopolitical issues in Ukraine. The event featured Serena Giusti, Professor at Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna and Senior Associate Research Fellow for the Russia and EU Eastern Neighbours Program at ISPI, with Joanna Kurusz, Program Director Eastern Europe and Central Asia for the Swedish NGO Civil Rights Defenders, and Gennadiy Tokarev, Human Rights Lawyer from Kiev.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS EXHIBIT TOURS ITALY

RFK Europe worked with the U.S. Embassy in Italy to organize the photography exhibition Freedom Fighters: The Kennedys and the Struggle for Civil Rights, curated by Fondazione Forma per la Fotografia and Contrasto. The pictures capture iconic moments in the history of the civil rights movement, including snapshots of everyday life in the South under racial segregation, portraits of the Kennedy brothers as they grapple with the issue in the nation’s capital, and images from the historic March on Washington.

The exhibit was showcased across Italy, including Trento, Firenze, Torino, Milano, Varese, and La Spezia, attracting 11,500 visitors.

IN 2014...

140 HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FROM 61 ORGANIZATIONS, HAILING FROM 56 COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBE, ATTENDED 7 TRAINING COURSES PUT ON BY THE RFK TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Robert F. Kennedy Training Institute (RFK TI) is one of the key pillars of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. The Training Institute is a hub where international human rights defenders, practitioners, government officials, students and all those who are committed to fulfilling Robert F. Kennedy’s dream of creating a more just and peaceful world, can come together, exchange ideas, and build lasting partnerships.

The trainings were held on topics including:
• Trainings for women human rights defenders from Russia
• Human Rights Affairs: Social Media & Human Rights for International Organizations
• Expert Meeting on Freedom of Expression, children’s rights and internet
• Training on the Inter-American system for Governments officials
• LGBT Rights
• Training on Human Rights Protection Mechanisms
• Training on the Inter-American Human Rights system for civil society
• Due Diligence Framework to end violence against women in the digital era
RFK LEGACY

JOURNALISM AWARD

Established in December of 1968 by a group of reporters who covered Robert Kennedy’s presidential campaign, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards honor those who report on issues that reflect RFK’s concern for human rights, social justice, and the power of individual action in the United States and around the world. Entries include insights into the causes, conditions and remedies of injustice and critical analysis of relevant public policies, programs, attitudes, and private endeavors. Over 50 volunteer judges review and select the winning entries.

- Domestic Television: “Rape in the Fields”/“Violación de un Sueño,” Andrés Cediel, Lowell Bergman, Lauren Rosenfeld, Bernice Young, Susanne Reber, Grace Rubenstein, Stephanie Mechura, Raney Aronson, Juan Rendon, Isaac Lee, UC Berkeley IPR, CIR, FRONTLINE, and Univision
- International Television: “Made in Bangladesh,” Anjali Karmat, Laila Al-Arian, Mathieu Skene, Warwick Meade, Tim Grucza, Andy Bowling and Fault Lines Staff, Al Jazeera
- International Print: “CONDEMNED: Mental Health in African Countries in Crisis,” Robin Hammond
- Radio: “Life After War: Coverage of Veterans,” Quil Lawrence, Bruce Auster, and Marisa Peñaloza, NPR News
- New Media: “Myanmar Emerges,” Thomas Mucha, Solana Pyne, David Case, Patrick Winn, and Jonah Kessel, Los Angeles Times
- Cartoon: “Portfolio by David Horsey,” David Horsey, Los Angeles Times
- College Winner: “A Broken Promise: Dowry Violence in India,” Varsha Ramakrishnan, Johns Hopkins Public Health Magazine

“This world demands the qualities of youth; not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the life of ease.”
– Robert F. Kennedy

BOOK AWARD

Thomas Healy, a professor of law at Seton Hall University Law School, received the 2014 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award for _The Great Dissent_, a history of Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.’s landmark dissent in Abrams v. United States, which gave rise to the robust First Amendment that Americans know today.

2014 also featured a special recognition honor for Congressman John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell, for their graphic novel _March: Book One_, which brings to life the crucial moments of the civil rights movement, in which Congressman Lewis played a vital role.

The Annual Book and Journalism Awards were presented at a ceremony at Newseum in Washington DC which was emceed by historian Michel Beschloss.

DIGITIZED ARCHIVES

RFK Legacy initiated an archival project in 2014 to collect, catalog and digitize photos, slides, film footage, papers, letters and other materials from Robert Kennedy’s life, with the aim of eventually making them available to the public in an online catalog.

RFK CURRICULUM

RFK Legacy worked with a cadre of volunteer educators, under the oversight of former school superintendent, Dr. Joanne Marien to develop a curriculum about Robert Kennedy’s life and work. The curriculum, which will introduce Robert Kennedy to new audiences, is designed to inspire students to take action on the issues that so deeply concerned him: poverty, civil rights, and peacemaking. The curriculum also will expose students to the current work of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, with opportunities to join our efforts in supporting human rights.

“...content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of new ideas and bold projects. Rather, it will belong to those who can blend passion, reason, and courage.”
– Robert F. Kennedy
EXPOSE INJUSTICE. TEACH CHANGE. RIGHT WRONG. HEAL PAIN. JOIN US.