



**ROBERT F.
KENNEDY
HUMAN
RIGHTS**

SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER
A human rights education program

THE PROBLEM

Continued human rights abuses

Every day, ideas are repressed and violently punished, access to food is limited and education opportunities are discriminatorily denied.

Despite numerous legal and advocacy efforts, human rights abuses continue to take place, and we're left wondering what we can do to prevent these atrocities in the future.

THE SOLUTION

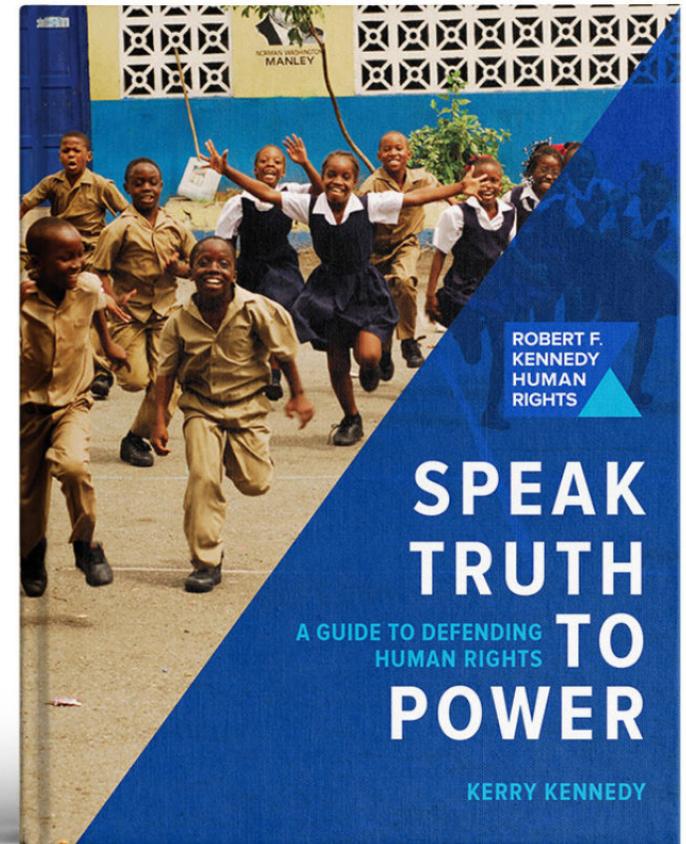
Human rights education

“Eight of the 15 people who planned the Holocaust in 1942 held PhDs. They shone academically, and yet they failed to show the smallest shred of ethics and understanding. I am increasingly supportive of the proposition that education of any kind, if it is devoid of a strong universal human rights component, can be next to worthless when it should matter most: in crisis, when our world begins to unravel.”

— Zeid bin Ra'ad, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

ABOUT US

Based on Kerry Kennedy's book *Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)*, *Speak Truth to Power* is a multidimensional human rights education program that combines powerful storytelling and interactive learning to provide this generation with the knowledge and tools necessary to end and prevent human rights abuses around the world (OHCHR UN Human Rights Education Plan 2010).



To date, our work has inspired an estimated **5.7 million** students, teachers, community leaders and citizens, teaching them to be **empathetic and emboldened champions of human rights.**

VISION

Why human rights education?

We are building a world defined by universal provision of and access to **quality human rights education**, empathetic and emboldened **action for change**, and **equality and justice for all**.

Through STTP, not only are we providing knowledge and understanding of human rights and human rights advocacy, we are also **redefining traditional education standards** and creating a **paradigm shift** that will make morality, ethics and human rights central parts of learning environments in order to solve some of our world's most pressing human rights issues.

To bring about these changes, our work is guided by a **chain of change**.

**ENGAGED AND
INTERACTIVE
LEARNING**



**HR LITERACY
AND GLOBAL
CONSCIOUSNESS**



**MINDFUL
ACTION**

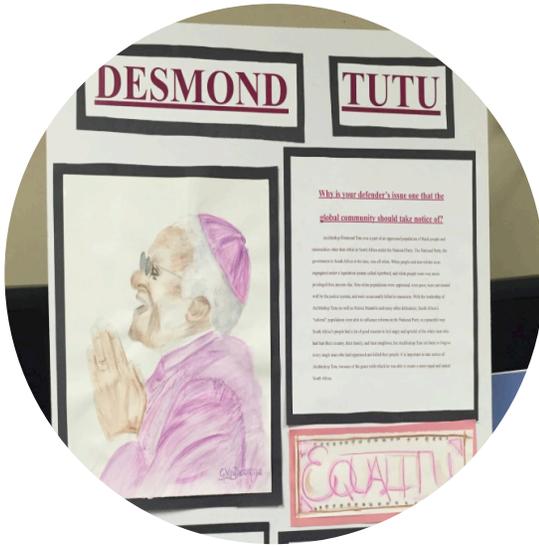


**BECOME A
DEFENDER**

APPROACH

Human rights through storytelling

What sets us apart is our commitment to telling stories. Motivated and defined by the lives and activism of 60+ human rights defenders, our work is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, employing the words, opinions and courage of these defenders as entry points into understanding and promoting universal human rights law, standards and advocacy.



Representation

We collect the stories of human rights defenders from around the world, providing insight into an array of cultures and ideas that is representative of the diversity of human rights as both a discipline and ethical norm. As a result, students can create an understanding of human rights that is three-dimensional and robust.



Collaboration

We combine our own expertise with that of teachers, community leaders and organizations domestically and abroad, exhausting all resources to build a new community of change-makers that will defend and promote human rights.



Comprehensive learning

Whether through the arts or activism, we provide opportunities for interactive, creative and non-traditional engagement with the human rights framework, encouraging teachers and students to see respect for human rights as a way of life that can and should be seamlessly integrated into any setting.

IMPACT

Lesson plans

Over 60 teacher-developed lesson plans available in 7 languages and used in 18 countries. Available for students from kindergarten to law school.

1.2 MILLION STUDENTS REACHED

Contests

We host an annual music contest in partnership with the GRAMMY museum, and an annual film contest in partnership with the Tribeca Film Institute.

>5,000 ENTRIES AND >55,000 STUDENTS REACHED

Educator trainings

STTP provides in-depth plans and trainings for implementation in schools and communities. We also host an online hub for sharing STTP best practices.

9,090 EDUCATORS TRAINED

Play

A play, *Speak Truth to Power: Voices Beyond the Dark*, by award-winning playwright, Ariel Dorfman performed by actors such as Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore.

PERFORMED IN >30 COUNTRIES AND IN 9 LANGUAGES

Photo exhibit

A traveling photo exhibit with portraits by Pulitzer-Prize winning photographer, Eddie Adams.

DISPLAYED IN 4 CONTINENTS

DISCOVERY EDUCATION

Through our partnership with Discovery Education our human rights education materials have the potential to reach **3 million teachers** and **30 million students**.

Digitized content

With a Virtual Field Trip, Interactive Map, and a Video Vignette series, classrooms have access to an expanding collection of standards- aligned teaching tools.



- Town hall style **Virtual Field Trip** featuring new and established human rights defenders
- An **interactive defenders map** with educator guide to help teachers integrate the map and its content into classroom plans
- An engaging **defender video series** with accompanying standards-aligned activities

INSIDE A LESSON PLAN

SONITA ALIZADEH

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND CHOICE
LESSON GRADE LEVELS 9–12

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

- **Article 3:** Right to Life, Liberty and Security of Person
- **Article 16:** Right to Consent to Marriage
- **Article 19:** Right to Freedom and Expression
- **Article 26:** Right to Education

TIME REQUIREMENT:

1-5 40 minute lessons with additional time for work beyond the classroom

NOTE TO TEACHERS

Child marriage is an issue and concern all over the world. While we often hear about child marriage in connection with other countries and religions and cultures not associated with the Western societies, students need to understand that child marriages occur everywhere and need to be taught and acted on accordingly.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- How does child marriage reflect both circumstances and priorities within a society?
- What does Sonita teach us about the power of an individual to change her own story and influence new cultural ways/practices?
- How can art and music function as a catalyst for defending and promoting human rights?

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Empathize and understand child marriage and its impact
- Analyze information
- Compare and contrast
- Expand their understanding of the cultural, economic and social constructs and circumstances that underlie child marriage

COMMON CORE LEARNING STANDARDS:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.2
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.4
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-10.5
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-10.7
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-10.9
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.5
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.7
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.9

VOCABULARY

- Arranged marriage
- Child marriage
- Coercion
- Consent
- Culture
- Cultural norms
- Forced marriage
- Human Trafficking
- Sustainable Development Goals

CONCEPTS

Children's rights, girls' rights, human rights, coercion, freedom of choice

STTP provides in-depth plans and trainings for implementation in schools and communities. We also host an online hub for sharing STTP best practices.

Each lesson plan aligns with Common Core Learning Standards so that human rights education serves as a tool to achieve existing curricula objectives.

ANTICIPATORY SET

“IF WE RESCUE ONE GIRL FROM THIS TRADITION, WE HAVE RESCUED THOUSAND OF OTHER GIRLS THROUGH HER EXAMPLE”

CHILD MARRIAGE FROM A

- Ask students to write what the academically and personally. kinds of support they need to (financial, emotional, time, etc) to learn about child marriage girl their age whose only goal child marriage and getting ed escape.
- Role-play activity: Pretend you child marriage at your current thoughts and feelings you have. What are you worried about? *Guiding questions, if students How are you being educated? How are you forced to marry? Why*

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1

Read Sonita's biography and info

- Ask students to watch *Brides* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hKneYjubs> What does the video say about Why do you think she is bruis bar code? Ask students to con uphold such a practice. Have
- Initiating activity: Distribute a list the places where they thin
- Read *Council on Foreign Relations* guide. As students read, they s questions:
 - Where does child marriage
 - What are the major factors
 - How do economics impact
 - How do cultural norms imp
 - What is the toll of child ma
 - What are the ways in which tried to stop child marriage
 - How does the CFR inform SDG 5 targets?

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BECOME A DEFENDER

- Write a letter to any of the individuals/agencies listed below. Share your thoughts and feelings about child marriage and explain why it must end. Make it relevant to the person/ organization receiving the letter using information and facts learned from the lesson. Send your letter. E-mail a copy to Sonita at: connect@sonita.org so that we may add it to our advocacy efforts.
 - Sonita
 - Parent, family member
 - Community leader
 - Elected official
 - United Nations
- Share your thoughts and feelings about child marriage in a creative art form (drawing, painting, poem, photo, song, story, etc). Share with your class or community to teach them something about early child marriage. Then, send it to Sonita at connect@sonita.org so that we may add it to our ongoing advocacy efforts.
- To end child marriage we need to ensure that governments enact and enforce laws against this abusive practice. Stand with Sonita and declare the right for girls to choose if, when and to whom they marry by signing our **solidarity petition** at Global Citizen. Through this petition we can all stand in solidarity with Sonita and the millions of girls affected by child marriage around the world. <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/action/stand-with-sonita/>
- Girls Not Brides is a member-based organization of over 600 organizations working to end child marriage. Look at the map and list of members. Reach out to an organization that interests you, either close by or far away and see how you can get involved. <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/about-girls-not-brides/our-members/search-for-members/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

GIRLS NOT BRIDES:

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/>

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 600 civil society organisations from over 80 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential.

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/reports-and-publications/child-early-and-forced-marriage-and-the-control-of-sexuality-and-reproduction/>
Child, Early and Forced Marriage and the Control of Sexuality and Reproduction.

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/resource-centre/child-marriage-brief-role-of-sectors/>

Briefing sheets that detail how child marriage impacts specific sectors: health, education food security, etc.

UNCHAINED AT LAST:

<http://www.unchainedatlast.org/>

Unchained At Last is the only nonprofit in the US dedicated to helping women and girls leave or avoid arranged/child marriages and rebuild their lives. Unchained also is the only nonprofit in the US dedicated to creating social change to end forced marriage in America.

THE ATLANTIC:

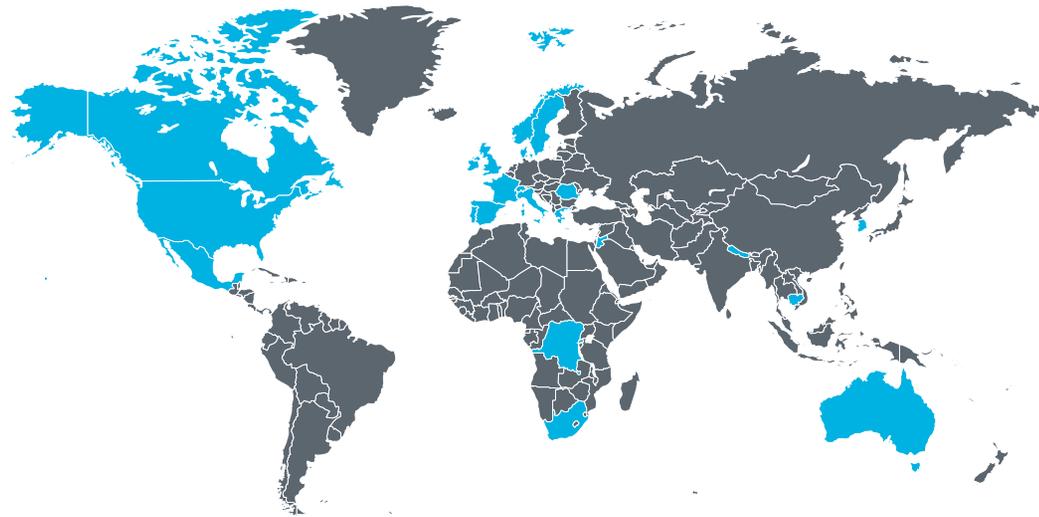
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/03/child-marriage-map/387214/>

Article with map about where legal/illegal child marriage exists and the role laws can play in the perpetuating or stopping the practice.

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Following our chain of change, the “Become a Defender” section calls on students to use what they have learned to take targeted action for change.

STTP AROUND THE GLOBE

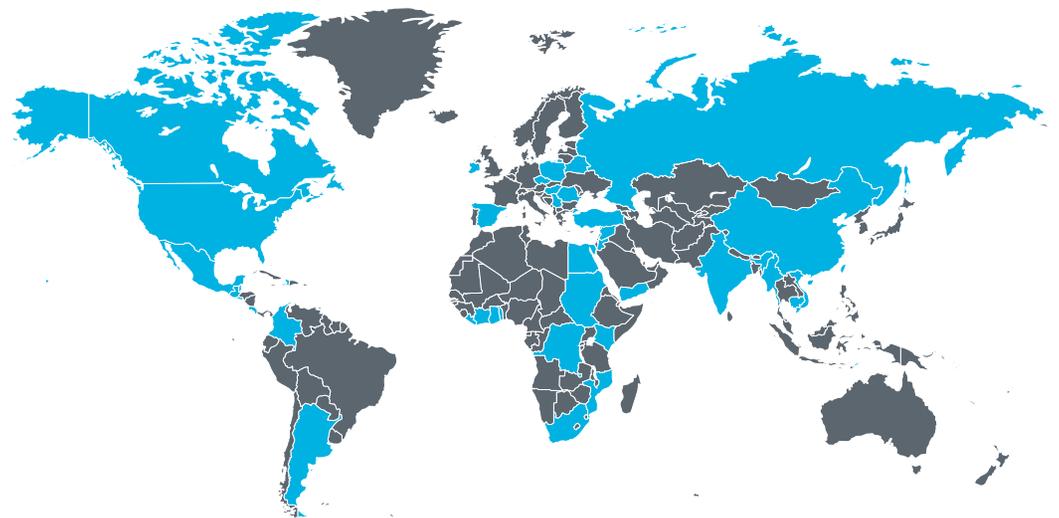


Where we work

STTP has been established in 18 countries, and is being pursued in 4 more. (Established and prospective host countries indicated in blue.)

Defenders from around the world

Our human rights defenders come from a wide range of countries from all over the world. (Defenders' home countries indicated in blue.)



OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

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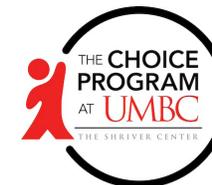


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CASE STUDIES: OUR WORK IN ACTION

U.S.A.

In schools and communities across the United States, teachers, community leaders and students are engaging with the STTP framework. Recently, STTP has expanded to Baltimore, MD, partnering with The Choice Program, Civic Works and service corps volunteers to bring human rights education, using the arts and creative expression, to adjudicated and opportunity Youth.

Spain

In Spain, Fulbright Scholars use STTP lesson plans to teach English. As students expand their knowledge and understanding of the language, they are also exposed to the human rights framework, helping them to become more informed and engaged change-makers and citizens.

Canada

STTP worked with our partners in Canada to integrate our materials and programming into the Canadian context. After workshops, trainings and meetings, STTP Canada was introduced to students throughout the country. The program includes 12 new lesson plans that feature Canadian human rights defenders representative of the nation's geographic and ethnic diversity.

STTP at the European Parliament

In February 2014, in collaboration with well-renowned actors such as Lena Olin and Dennis Haysbert, members of the European Parliament, including President Martin Schulz, performed Speak Truth to Power: Voices Beyond the Dark. Presented in front of their fellow parliamentarians, the performance proved to be a powerful display of solidarity, seamlessly bridging together politics, activism and the arts.

Brussels summit

In September 2017, STTP hosted a conference to further strengthen and expand existing programming. Bringing together a group of 30+ educators, activists and social entrepreneurs, the Summit helped to create an international STTP Roadmap that detailed concrete ways to scale STTP using our Impact Building Blocks: Products, Systems, Mobilization, Human Rights Education and Global Advocacy.



MUSIC AND VIDEO CONTESTS

Video Contest

Since 2010, in partnership with the Tribeca Film Institute and the American Federation of Teachers, STTP has hosted a video contest that encourages students to use filmmaking to bring to life the stories and advocacy of STTP defenders. This contest has produced videos on topics such as Islamophobia, LGBTQ rights and genocide and has engaged over 50,000 students across the nation.



Speak Up, Sing Out Music Contest

In 2015, STTP and the GRAMMY museum hosted an inaugural concert for the Speak Up, Sing Out Music contest. The concert featured musicians such as Melissa Etheridge, Rocky Dawuni, and David Crosby. With creativity and activism serving as the theme of the evening, the event brought together several generations, proving that art can serve as the perfect platform for change. Since its launch, the music contest continues to inspire students to speak up and sing out.



PHOTO EXHIBIT

In the U.S.A.

In March 2012, the STTP Photo Exhibit was displayed at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. In 2018, it was displayed at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

In Sweden

In 2012, the STTP photo exhibit was displayed throughout a train station in Sweden, allowing everyday citizens to interact with the stories of STTP Defenders. In this setting, human rights were integrated into the population's daily routine, reminding those who passed through the station that defense of human rights should be a habitual commitment.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

In honor of the 50th anniversary of RFK's campaign for President of the United States, STTP, in collaboration with Swedish partner, Fryshuset, hosted a panel that featured Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden, Kerry Kennedy and local students to discuss RFK's legacy and the ways that student engagement with STTP can honor and continue his work. The discussion is one of several events scheduled to commemorate the 50th and brought together a diverse group of young people, government officials and entrepreneurs to tackle some of today's most pressing issues.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“The [STTP] training was like somebody awakening me. Afterwards, I knew how to use my own rights. It’s like someone reminded me of my rights, and before all was dark.”

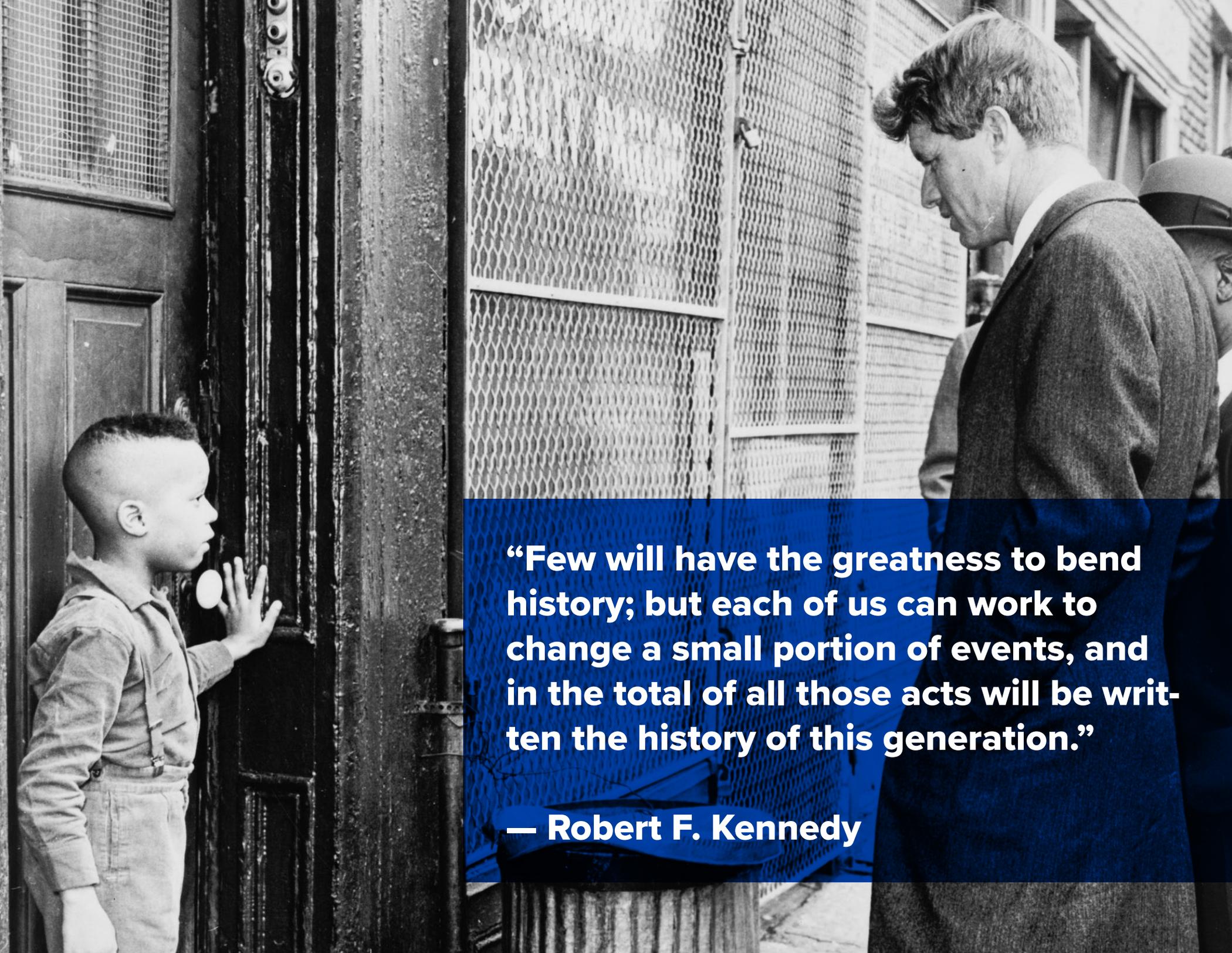
- an educator from Cambodia

“Speak Truth To Power has given me a resource to help our whole school become a safer and stronger community.”

- a teacher from the U.S.

“Thanks to STTP, I have started to think more about our different problems here in Sweden, but also in the world.”

- a student from Sweden



“Few will have the greatness to bend history; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.”

— Robert F. Kennedy