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
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
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.
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.

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.

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.

**Representation**

**Collaboration**

**Comprehensive learning**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Lesson plans</strong></th>
<th>1.2 MILLION STUDENTS REACHED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 60 teacher-developed lesson plans available in 7 languages and used in 18 countries. Available for students from kindergarten to law school.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Contests</strong></th>
<th>&gt;5,000 ENTRIES AND &gt;55,000 STUDENTS REACHED</th>
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<tr>
<td>We host an annual music contest in partnership with the GRAMMY museum, and an annual film contest in partnership with the Tribeca Film Institute.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Educator trainings</strong></th>
<th>9,090 EDUCATORS Trained</th>
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<tr>
<td>STTP provides in-depth plans and trainings for implementation in schools and communities. We also host an online hub for sharing STTP best practices.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Play</strong></th>
<th>PERFORMED IN &gt;30 COUNTRIES AND IN 9 LANGUAGES</th>
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<td>A play, <em>Speak Truth to Power: Voices Beyond the Dark</em>, by award-winning playwright, Ariel Dorfman performed by actors such as Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Photo exhibit</strong></th>
<th>DISPLAYED IN 4 CONTINENTS</th>
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<td>A traveling photo exhibit with portraits by Pulitzer-Prize winning photographer, Eddie Adams.</td>
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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

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

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 of Expression
- Article 26: Right to Education

TIME REQUIREMENT:
1-1.5 hour 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:
- Emphasize 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.RH.9-10.5
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.7
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.9
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-11.12.5
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.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

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

Funders

FUND II FOUNDATION
ELKHART EDUCATION FOUNDATION
SCHULTZ FAMILY FOUNDATION
HUMANITY UNITED

Select partners

Discovery Education
GRAMMY MUSEUM
TRIBECA FILM INSTITUTE
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

GLOBAL CITIZEN
ACT
Association for Citizenship Teaching

Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Canadian Museum pour les Droits de la Personne

Education International Internationale de l'Educacion
Bildungsinternationale

Civic Works
Stony Brook School of Social Welfare
FULBRIGHT
uc3m | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

International Studies Foundation
aft
UFT
NEA
National Education Association
dramaforlife

The Choice Program at UMBC

Pamplona University
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.
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.
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 writ-
ten the history of this generation.”

— Robert F. Kennedy